

Hafa Adai!

FAC holds steady in June. **PAGE 3**
Woman pleads guilty to using fake license. **PAGE 5**

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Payless to close in Marianas

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Payless ShoeSource will cease operations in the Marianas, with its stores on Saipan and Guam closing down like the more than 2,000 shops in the U.S. mainland and Canada that will also be closing within the year.

The Saipan store is currently holding a closing out sale that started last Friday, offering as much as a 30 percent discount. The store is open

See PAYLESS on Page 4



The Payless ShoeSource store in San Jose. MARK RABAGO

House to vote on Kilili's improved status bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bill introduced by Gre-
gorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-
MP) that would address the
status of individuals under
categorical parole program
and those with employment
authorization documents

will be up for a floor vote in
the U.S. House of Repre-
sentatives on Monday (Tuesday
on Saipan).

H.R. 559 would give per-
manent residency status for
1,038 individuals who have
resided in the CNMI for
years and were given hu-

See HOUSE on Page 4



HONOR SOCIETY

The Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recently inducted a record breaking 118 new members at Northern Marianas College. The induction ceremony was held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Saturday, May 31, 2019. The PTK Honor Society serves to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development thorough honors, leadership, and service programming. Currently, PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2.5 million members and 1,275 chapters located in 50 United States and territories as well as Canada and Germany.

E-Land also eyeing Marpi land

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC isn't the only company looking to lease the public land in Marpi left idle

by the closure of Mariana Re-
sort & Spa last year.

E-Land Group of Companies, which owns Kensington Hotel, Pacific Island Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf

See E-LAND on Page 4

Virginia Beach shines light on victims, not mass shooter

By BEN FINLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—The victims of Amer-
ica's latest mass shooting had
been dead for less than a day

when police and city officials
released a detailed presenta-
tion with their names, photo-
tos, job titles and the cities or
towns in which they lived.

In all, 12 people — 11 of
See SHOOTER on Page 4



AP
Virginia Beach city manager
Dave Hansen, left, Virginia
Beach Chief of Police James
Cervera, center, and Mayor
Bobby Dyer listen during a news
conference Saturday, June 1,
2019 in Virginia Beach, Va.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Tan Siu Lin Foun-
dation rallies behind
the Lions Club's
Diabetes Awareness
Project.

PAGE 6



ASIA

The Philippines has
shipped 69 contain-
ers of illegally trans-
ported garbage back
to Canada.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

Eight champions
closed out the Scripps
National Spelling Bee
by spelling 47 words
correctly.

PAGE 19



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Local

'Businesses feeling effect of govt austerity'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios said local businesses were already feeling the pinch of the government's austerity measure even before Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued a 72-hour work schedule.

"Austerity measures have been in effect for the CNMI government for months and the business community has been impacted. I have spoken to some business owners and they have indicated their sales are low," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

She, however, did not provide immediate data from the businesses that had experienced a drop in their sales and revenue.

The government's reduced working hours will further impact the local business community, Palacios said.

"Employees will be spending less. They would have to manage their household bud-

gets to make ends meet. We hope our tourist arrivals will continue to increase to help our economy," she added.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Gloria Cavanagh is not fazed. She told *Saipan Tribune* last week that several hotels have already been

implementing austerity measures, soon after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI, in order to secure their fiscal health.

Cavanagh added the CNMI had experienced this before. "However, we may be in a better position since the last round of government austerity measures. I believe the key is to work on bringing back the tourism numbers in order to bring back health to our economy."



Palacios

the latest of a series of various belt-tightening measures that the Torres administration had imposed since the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year. The widespread damage closed down the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for weeks, resulting in revenue projections in the first two quarters of the 2019 fiscal year plummeting due to the large drop in tourism numbers.

Under the new work hour cuts, Torres reduced the operations of offices under the Executive Branch, starting with the pay period on June 23. Agencies will be closed every payday Friday beginning on July 5 until further notice.

The Legislature also experienced reduction with their monthly allotments while the Judiciary's budget was reduced by almost 50 percent, based on Torres' proposal submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee. The government also froze all salary increases and hiring of additional personnel.



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FAC holds steady in June

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel adjustment charge remains at \$0.20087 per kilowatt-hour for the month of June.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from April 2019 to June

PIC takes on COP tradition of hosting *man'amko*

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan has taken on the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort's annual tradition of hosting the CNMI's elderly for an outing since the resort is indefinitely closed because of the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu.

According to E-Land Group Corporate Social Responsibility facilitator Lindsay Ahn, COP has hosted the island's *man'amko* for a friendly golf tournament and a complimentary lunch since 2014 up to 2018.

It has become an annual tradition for both E-Land and the *man'amko* and E-Land is determined to keep that tradition alive, this time with COP's sister company, PIC Saipan, playing host to the elderly.

"This has become a tradition for us—a yearly event with the *man'amko*—and we just wanted to keep this bond even though the COP is temporarily closed. When COP opens back up, we will move it to COP again or we might continue to host it here, we're not sure. But we will continue this every year," she said.

PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh said they gladly took on the tradition when the company's CSR asked them.

2019 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second

"They did not want to skip it just because the property was destroyed so, of course, we're right here for them," she said.

Some of the activities that PIC set up for the *man'amko* included ground golf and some relay games but, according to Cavanagh, the *man'amko* seemed more excited to swim in PIC's many swimming pools.

Office of Aging director Walter Manglona said that, from the initial 80, about 60 *man'amko* showed up; some were apprehensive about the change in scenery.

"Initially, on Thursday, there was 80 of them that showed interest. Some of them were a little apprehensive because they're not accustomed to this kind of outing," he said.

Manglona gave thanks for E-Land's generosity and for always thinking of ways to give back to the CNMI's elderly.

"E-Land has been very generous with us so, regardless of where they host us, it's the thought that they bring for our seniors and the things that they do for us always makes us happy.

"Just seeing the smiles on everyone's faces and the excitement. We want to send a huge thank you to E-Land for always thinking about our *man'amko* every year," he said.

component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued

by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5-percent differential of the average per

gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the leveled energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used

by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (PR)

CNMI welcomes new Japanese consul

The CNMI recently welcomed a new Japanese consul to replace former consul Kinji Shinoda, who has retired.

Newly-appointed Japanese Consul to the CNMI Kazuhiko Ono made his public debut at the 13th Annual Nenpou Shinkyou Denomination Memorial Ceremony last week.

Ono, who arrived on Saipan last May 8, was

amazed to learn about the deep ties that bind the Marianas and Japan. He said he plans to help strengthen that bond. He hopes that, in his time as consul, he can help entice more Japanese tourists to visit the Commonwealth as it is rich in Japanese history.

Ono said he has yet to make his rounds of introducing him-

self to the Commonwealth's private and government sectors but he is looking forward to meeting them all.

Ono previously served as Japan's consul in New Zealand before he was stationed in the Commonwealth to replace Shinoda, who retired in March.

Shinoda, who served as Japan consul to the CNMI for two years, promoted projects such as teaching opportunities

in Japan, the introduction of unique sake to the CNMI, the establishment of the CNMI Japanese Descent Association. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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Da'ok students learn about sustainable fishing from SFA

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Fishing Association and the Da'ok Academy and its students kicked off over the weekend a pilot program that teaches about sustainable fishing and the environment.

Last Saturday was Day 1 of five weeks of teaching students about sustainable fishing at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality building along Middle Road.

The first week consists of presentations from representatives of BECQ, the

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety.

"...It's basically about giving back to the community. We have been running SFA for 35 years and it's time to work with the Public School System," said SFA outreach program vice chair Alex Castro Jr. in an interview.

The program is a pilot, according to Castro, adding that the association wants to make this an annual activity. "We are just trying to settle this thing and, once we get our heads out of the water,

it's going to be full force," he said.

The first meeting last Saturday afternoon was the introduction of the program. Next Saturday onwards, the student would be heading out to the sea for a more hands-on experience.

"Next week would be teaching the students how to tie the lures; basic introductions to the equipment settings on the boat. ...We are even going to have a mini-derby," he said.

Da'ok teacher and fishing club advisor Joan Torres noted that the program is also

important culturally, noting that indigenous culture relied heavily on the sea as a source of food.

"It teaches [the students] how to embrace their culture," she said, "I [believe] it's very important that the students embrace their culture and keep the tradition going."

The Da'ok Academy currently has 13 students signed up for the program. Torres noted only eight students showed up last Saturday because some of them had transportation issues as well as other familial obligations

to attend to. SFA president Gene Weav-

er gave Saturday's introductory speech.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

from 10am to 9pm, Monday to Saturday, and from 10am to 8pm on Sunday.

In a Facebook post, Saipan store manager Flor Deleon Guerrero said they are experiencing mixed emotions and sadness with the expected closure of the Saipan and Guam branches of Payless.

"I guess it has come to an end. Over the years, Payless Shoes is the only place I buy shoes for my kids and my family," said Deleon Guerrero. She added that all of her seven kids grew up using Payless shoes.

Deleon Guerrero thanked their loyal customers that supported them through the years since Payless began operations on Saipan in 2004.

Saipan Tribune sent separate inquiries to Payless Communications director Lauren Jeffords and also Deleon Guerrero, but they have yet to respond as of press time.

Jun and Emi Abellon Marilla are both sad that the store

will be closing down. "It is such a waste, since they are the only shoe store on the island that offer quality shoes at an affordable price."

The couple said they have been regular customers, especially when their son, J.K., was born. "We usually buy a pair of shoes about two to three months a year. But now, every three months, since J.K. is growing fast."

Payless filed for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code early this year at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, with some subsidiaries under Payless Canada also seeking protection "pursuant to the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in the Ontario Court of Justice."

Jeffords told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier email that Saipan, along with its Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, will be not affected by the Chapter 11 filing.

Payless is known as a specialty discount shoe store that regularly offers "Buy One, Get One" promo and other special offers.

HOUSE

From Page 1

in the CNMI legally while Congress was deliberating on H.R. 1466.

USCIS, under the administration of President Trump, pulled the plug on the program in December last year but gave a window of 180 days to allow these individuals to transition to other status—like the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visas—to remain in the CNMI legally.

The 180 days will end on June 29 and those under the programs should have obtained other immigration status or leave the CNMI until the issue is resolved.

Those affected by the issue are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and caregivers of CNMI residents.

The end of the transitional window of 180 days is still on June 29, Saturday, and has not been changed.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said last week that the issue can also be resolved by U.S. Department of Homeland Security and USCIS through an administrative decision.



Sablan

SHOOTER

From Page 1

them city employees—were killed by the shooter who opened fire inside a municipal building.

Far less was revealed Saturday about the man who authorities say carried out the shootings. There was no photo. And authorities promised to utter his name only once: "DeWayne Craddock," a 40-year-old engineer who worked in the city's utilities department.

"We wanted to control that narrative," Steve Cover, Virginia Beach's deputy city manager of public safety, said of the news conference officials held the day after Friday's shooting. "We didn't want it to leak out piece by piece through family and friends and so forth through the media. We felt it was kind of our obligation to get that message out."

This sprawling city on Virginia's coast is employing an increasingly common public information strategy: Release more details about the victims of mass shootings than of the killers — at least initially — to limit

the criminals' exposure and prevent copycat shootings.

A similar tack was taken in March after a mass shooting in New Zealand. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern promised to deny a platform for the white supremacist who authorities said gunned down 50 people at two mosques.

"The goal is to kind of interrupt the cycle of new mass shooters citing previous ones, and the new mass shooters who are becoming role models for even more attackers," said Adam Lankford, a criminologist at the University of Alabama.

Lankford has studied the influence of publicity on future shooters and has urged the news media to not name or release photos of the perpetrators.

"What the guy's face looks like is not the sort of information that will help stop the next mass shooting," he said.

But James Alan Fox, a professor at Northeastern University who has studied mass shootings, said it's appropriate for law enforcement officials to release basic facts.

"It is news," Fox said.

"We provide basic details on other types of offenders."

It is the "act—not the actor" that influences others, he said. "The Columbine massacre, for example, inspired copycats, not the assailants' names and faces."

But there is a limit to how much should be reported, Fox said. Too much about a killer's background can "humanize" him or her and cross the line from news reporting to "celebrity watch."

Virginia Beach officials said more information about Friday's shooting will come out.

"And we will share our lessons learned," said Cover, the deputy city manager.

But first, officials want everyone to know the profound loss the city has suffered: four engineers who worked to maintain streets and protect wetlands; three right-of-way agents who reviewed property lines; an account clerk, a technician, an administrative assistant and a special projects coordinator. In all, they had

served the city of Virginia Beach for more than 150 years. The 12th victim was a contractor who was in the

building to seek a permit.

"They leave a void that we will never be able to fill," said City Manager Dave Hansen, who had worked for years with many of the slain.

Sandra McDonald, 54, an event planner and nanny who lives in Virginia Beach, said she supports the city's strong focus on the victims.

"I think sometimes these people think going out in a blaze of glory is the way they are going to have their moment of fame," McDonald said, referring to the mass shooters. "I just think if we don't give them that moment of fame anymore, maybe they won't take innocent people with them."

Alice Scott, whose husband, Joseph Scott, worked with Craddock in the Public Utilities Department, said she can understand why people don't want to hear the shooter's name.

But she said maybe after some time has passed, "we can discuss why this happened."

"Maybe he needed someone to talk to," she said. "Maybe he needed to (talk) out his troubles like everybody else."

E-LAND

From Page 1

Resort, is interested in leasing the 50,000-square-meter property north of Saipan.

"We still have sincere interest in Mariana Resort & Spa and we are preparing for the long-term-lease proposal for the next opportunity in the future," said E-Land Group chief executive officer Matthew Park.

"We have been informed by the Department of Public Lands regarding the short-term operation...and the coming long-term lease contract request for proposal. We submitted our net operating income for the short-

term operation which was, unfortunately, unaccepted," he added.

The short-term lease of the Marpi land was instead awarded to Imperial Pacific last month under a management agreement. This allows the casino operator to manage and operate the entire Mariana Resort for one year.

In an earlier interview with IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown, he said that the development of the Marpi area is referred to as Phase II of the casino management agreement.

"Our goal in the end is to get that land because we cannot plan properly without the lands. ...We are trying to get lands to tie together with the

Garapan construction and on to the other phases and we have investors on board."

Brown said the management agreement for the Mariana Resort property is a not a lease agreement. "We are willing to do it so we can have this land for us and the investors that are coming will know that we have it," he added.

To date, the management agreement between IPI and DPL has not been executed because of additional requirements that the former has to fulfill. "The attorney general is looking for additional information to grant the management agreement to IPI. That is what we are doing now, gathering more

information so we can move forward with that," Brown earlier said.

In 2014, two companies expressed an interest to build in Marpi. However, TanHoldings Corp. and Sunshine 100 withdrew from leasing almost 10 hectares of public lands in Marpi, freeing up public property that DPL hopes would be developed by E-Land Group.

Meanwhile, another South Korean company, Hanwha Hotels & Resorts Co., is reportedly selling the Saipan World Resort due to financial difficulties. Park said that E-land is not interested in the sale of Saipan World Resort in Susupe. "We are only observing the deal."

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Palacios: United front on labor, immigration

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said the administration has brought the issue of the Philippines' removal from the H-2B visa program to the table in the Section 902 Talks with the federal government.

"[We are] trying to figure out the complexities on the issue of H-2B visas for Filipino citizens. I'm not sure if other states and territories are experiencing the impact, but I know CNMI and Guam are...certainly impacted," said Palacios last May 29, soon after signing a proclamation that declared the month of June as NMI-Philippine Friendship Month.

He said it is not just about pointing to other countries in the region where the CNMI can have access to a skilled workforce "but Filipinos are one of the most desirable ones for the CNMI."

Early this year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services removed the Philippines from among the list

of countries whose workers could be brought in using the H-2B visas, citing the potential for employers to abuse the program. The Dominican Republic and Ethiopia are also no longer eligible for H-2B visas.

Since the Philippines is one of its top sources of skilled foreign labor, this development is having a serious impact on the CNMI. It has slowed down construction projects in the CNMI, including the casino hotel of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Palacios said the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would continue to work with their counterparts in the federal government to resolve the issue. "Gov. Torres made that point in the recent 902 Talks, to try and sway the federal government to carve out a different policy and program."

Palacios said one of the ways for the federal government to reconsider is for Guam and the CNMI to have a united front on the categorical parole issue at the

coming Micronesian Chief Executive Summit.

[For] Guam to also use some of the efforts that we are making to help resolve these issues and insist that it is critical for the CNMI to have different [immigration] policy," he said.

USCIS also terminated the categorical parole program, affecting the lives of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), caregivers of CNMI residents.

"[We must] have it considered because a lot of our Micronesian brothers and sisters are spouses of Filipino folks that are in these immigration categories. One of the plans by the governor is to insist and request assistance at the Micronesian summit. To have a united front and request the U.S. to consider this status and give it a lot more stability."

Woman pleads guilty to using fake license

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An allegedly overstaying female tourist who was recently arrested for driving a taxi using a fake CNMI driver's license has pleaded guilty in federal court.

Chunqiao Chen pleaded guilty last Friday to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document as part of a plea deal.

She will be sentenced on July 1 at 1:30pm.

The court-appointed counsel for Chen, Steven P. Pixley, has asked U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to sentence Chen that day, Friday, but the judge denied this, saying she would order an expedited presentence investigation report in the case.

The U.S. Probation Office was ordered to file the presentence investigation report by June 21.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the case, Chen paid \$300 between May 2, 2019 and May 16, 2019, to obtain the fake CNMI driver's license.

Chen sent that person a copy of her old driver's license via WEIXIN, a Chinese messenger service.

One day later, Chen received the fraudulent CNMI driver's license from the individual in Chalan Kanoa.

Homeland Security Investi-

gations task force officers arrested Chen three weeks ago on Saipan.

HSI task force officer Jesse Dubrall allegedly encountered Chen last May 16 and recognized her as the one from whom he had seized an expired Saipan driver's license last May 2.

When Dubrall asked Chen why she was driving again when he had previously advised her that she could not

legally drive on Saipan, she allegedly presented Dubrall with another driver's license.

After checking with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Dubrall determined that the Saipan driver's license was fake.

Chen was subsequently arrested after HSI filed a complaint against her. She was later allowed to post bail and released to a third-party custodian.

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² Two free checked bags are for the primary cardholder only. Service charges for additional/oversized/overweight bags may apply. Purchase of ticket(s) with United Credit Card is required.

³ The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 18.00% as of 5/1/19. The introductory fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than \$1.00. The Balance Transfer Fee is either \$5 or 5% of the amount of each Balance Transfer, whichever is greater. The Convenience Check Fee is either \$5 or 5% of the amount of each check, whichever is greater. The ATM Cash Advance and Over-the-counter Cash Advance Fees are \$10 or 5% of the amount of each Cash Advance, whichever is greater. There are no Foreign Transaction Fees. The annual fee is \$0 for an introductory period of one year and \$99 per year thereafter. Additional limitations, terms, and conditions apply. To learn more about the United Credit Card from First Hawaiian Bank, visit FHB.com/United.

Fraudsters allegedly hack POI email

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fraudsters allegedly hacked an email of Pacific Oriental Inc. Aviation and tricked a Florida-based company into wiring \$42,164 to a fraudulent bank account in the United Kingdom. They money was supposed to be paid to POI for ground handling services in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

POI Aviation, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, is suing National Air Cargo before the Superior Court for breach of contract and negligence. POI demands a jury trial.

POI seeks to recover its

damages in the principal amount of \$42,164, plus an unspecified amount of pre-judgment interest, court costs, and attorney's fees.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from National Air Cargo.

POI provides ground handling services to airlines operating at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

According to Pixley in the complaint filed last Thursday, National Air Cargo contracted with POI in January to provide ground handling services for an aircraft that was delivering cargo to Saipan in the aftermath of Yutu. National Air

» Tricks FL company to pay services to fraudulent account in UK

Cargo agreed to pay POI via wire transaction.

Pixley said that, on Jan. 2, 2019, POI gave National Air Cargo instructions to wire payments to POI's Bank of Hawaii account in Garapan. National Air Cargo allegedly failed to do so. Pixley said this constitute a breach of its contractual obligations to POI.

The lawyer said POI made several demands for payment but National Air Car-

go refused.

Pixley said that, based on information and belief, fraudsters hacked into POI Aviation's email and purportedly sent an email to National Air Cargo on Jan. 14, 2019, which stated "don't send payment to Bank of Hawaii account. As you know, it is a small bank and would have taken longer to receive credit for your payment."

This email purportedly in-

structed National Air Cargo to send payments to an account in the United Kingdom instead.

Pixley said National Air Cargo informed POI that it sent several payments to the fraudulent bank account without confirming the new wiring instructions, which contained markedly different information from the Jan. 2 wiring instructions.

Pixley said the change in the wiring instructions to a foreign country in British sterling and the comments regarding the Bank of Hawaii should have prompted National Air Cargo to confirm the information with POI prior to wiring any funds.

"National Air Cargo

breached its duty of care owed to POI Aviation by not confirming this suspicious new information," he pointed out.

Pixley said POI is a relatively small company that does not have an office in the United Kingdom.

"This information is readily available on the internet," said Pixley, adding that National Air Cargo was in the best position to prevent the fraud.

Simply put, Pixley said, National Air Cargo should have exercised reasonable care after receiving conflicting emails containing conflicting wiring instructions by calling POI to confirm or verify the correct wire instructions prior to wiring the funds.

As such, he added, National Air Cargo should suffer the loss associated with the fraud.

Bridge Capital donates \$2,000 to LibDay festivities

Community support for Liberation Day is rolling in as preparations are underway for Saipan's signature event.

The 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Committee received last week a \$2,000 cash donation from Bridge Capital, LLC.

"Bridge Capital is a consistent community partner in many events on Saipan, and we are grateful to have them as a bronze sponsor for this year's Liberation Day festivities. We have a lot planned this year, and we encourage the community to come out and enjoy what we have to offer this year," said Liberation Day Committee chair Joe Ayuyu Jr.

Bronze sponsorship is given to a company or organization that has contributed at



Bridge Capital donates \$2,000 to the Liberation Day Committee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

least \$1,000 in cash or in-kind donation.

"Bridge Capital is always happy to help the community in any way we can. For the past four years, we have been a sponsor of the Liberation Day festivities, and we are excited about the plans this year. We look forward to another great celebration," said Bridge Capital vice president & chief investment officer Jody Jordahl.

"This year's Liberation Day will be very exciting as food vendors, activities, and new carnival games will be offered for the entire community. We are grateful to our community business partners for their support, and we invite everyone to join us in celebrating our freedom," said Mayor David M. Apatang. (PR)

PSS graduation season in session

The graduation season in the CNMI kicked off two weekends ago with Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog H. Inos Jr. High School, while both Saipan and Tinian will follow suit as early as June 10, 2019.

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School will continue the graduation season with its middle school promotion ceremony at the school campus cafeteria on June 10, 2019, starting 10am. The high school graduation for the lone PSS high school on Tinian starts at 4pm at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheatre.

Marianas High School starts off Saipan's graduation season in their school campus on June 11 at 4pm. Kagman High School follows on June 12 at the American Memorial Park on June 12, at 4pm.

Dao'ok Academy and Saipan Southern High School will have graduations on June 13 starting at 11am at the Charley's Cabaret Saipan of the Pacific Islands Club and 4pm at the school campus stage, respectively.

Middle school promotions also start on June 11 with Francisco M. Sablan Middle School up first at the Pacific Islands Club Pavilion at 8:30am. Dandan Middle School follows at 11am on the same day, but in their school campus stage.

Kagman's Chacha Ocean View Middle School will hold promotion ceremonies at 8:30am on June 12, in the campus cafeteria while Tanapag Middle School would hold its promotion ceremonies later at 10:30am in the school campus stage.

The Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would be holding its promotion ceremonies on June 14 starting at 4pm at the Saipan Southern High School campus stage. (Erwin Encinare)

TSL Foundation backs anti-diabetes awareness campaign

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation rallied behind the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club's Diabetes Awareness Project last May 26, a one-day seminar at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan that focused on raising awareness of this debilitating disease.

As an advocate of health and wellness programs, the foundation donated \$1,000 for the project.

TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said that diabetes and its complication "are definitely a cause of concern not only in the CNMI but the rest of the world, and getting valuable information about the disease out to the community could help prevent the loss of limbs and lives," she said.

Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club president Annamae Adaza said more than 100 members and non-members took part in the Diabetes Awareness Project, which had physician assistants Douglas and Elizabeth Metz, Jessie Delos Reyes-Willsey, and Amor Zapata as



Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, sixth right, hands the ceremonial check to Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club president Annamae Adaza, fifth left, and former president Eli Arago, seventh left, last month at the Tan Holdings Corporate Office in support of Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club's Diabetes Awareness Project.

resource speakers.

They discussed meal planning, eye care, exercise, and contributing factors to the disease. Reading materials on prevention and management were also distributed to the attendees.

"We had a very good turnout. [We hope] participants

will put into practice what they have learned from our guest speakers. If they could change their lifestyle, live healthier, and encourage their family members to do the same, then we, Lions, would have accomplished our goal to help lessen the number of people affected by diabetes

and other diseases associated with it," Adaza said.

The Diabetes Awareness Project was made possible by a mini grant from Lions Clubs International and though the support of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, T Galleria, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, Happy Mar-

ket, Hardt Eye Clinic and Diabetes Education Center, and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Non-Communicable Diseases Bureau. The project, which Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club Service chair Ernie Molina facilitated, was part of the group's annual health fair. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Graduation day reminders

Graduation day reminders to the Kagman High School parents & graduating Class of 2019:

Graduation practice is from 9am to 11am at the following locations:

- June 5: KHS Café
- June 6: American Memorial Park
- June 7: American Memorial Park
- June 10: American Memorial Park

June 11: Awards ceremony, Kagman Elementary School cafeteria, 4pm

June 12: Graduation Day, American Memorial Park, 4:30 pm. Seniors, arrive by 3:30pm. All seniors will gather in the air-conditioned theater in the main AMP Museum. The graduation is a formal ceremony, so all graduates must practice cap-and-gown etiquette during the ceremony. (PR)

Military training in open ocean, at Dandan, Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean training from 8am to 8am on June 3-5, within a 10-nautical mile radius of the following coordinates: 13° 28'N/144° 25'E.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct open-ocean training from 8am to 4pm on June 4, within a 10-nautical mile radius of the following coordinates: 13° 27.5'N/144° 21.5'E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on June 3-6, from 11am to 11:55pm at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of

blanks can occur during training.

The U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 3 and 6, from 8am to 9pm
- June 4, 5 and 7, from 10:30am to 9pm

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Guam to release tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation and Department of Administration will mail this week over 1,000 tax refund checks totaling approximately \$3.8 million, including refunds garnished to repay government debts for error-free returns filed on or before Jan. 31, 2019. For inquiries, contact Income Tax Branch, Department of Revenue & Taxation at (671) 635-1840 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration at (671) 475-1250. (PR)

Domenech, Smith to visit US Virgin Islands

U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech and National Park Service deputy director P. Daniel Smith will meet with U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. and other USVI officials, including U.S. Attorney Gretchen Shappert, this week. Discussions are expected to cover a range of issues such as disaster recovery efforts, projects funded by the Office of Insular Affairs, and issues impacting the National Parks in the territory.

They will meet with Jacqueline Heyliger, director of the Joint Federal Office for the FEMA Disaster Recovery Office, for an overview on the progress of disaster recovery efforts in the territory. A meeting is also scheduled with Adrienne Williams, director of the Virgin Islands Office of Disaster Recovery. The ODR was

established to provide critical financial management coordination across each agency and organization receiving disaster recovery funds as a result of impacts and damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. In 2018, Interior announced \$3 million in supplemental disaster relief funds to establish this office.

While in the territory from June 2 to June 5, Domenech will be signing several fiscal year 2019 grants over to Bryan for the benefit of the territory. The funds will provide assistance in a variety of areas, ranging from road rehabilitation in historic neighborhoods, to maintenance and repair at schools and historic buildings, to assistance for an upcoming health innovation summit. (PR)

GCC to launch Ship Repair Transportation Boot Camp

The Guam Community College, in partnership with the Cabras Marine Corp., will launch today, June 3, the Ship Repair Transportation Bootcamp at the GCC campus. The opening ceremony will start promptly at 8:30am at GCC's Multi-Purpose Auditorium.

The opening ceremony will signify the start of the Ship Repair Transportation Boot Camp and will bring together various island and industry leaders who support meaningful partnerships and programs that provide opportunities for the non-traditional, unemployed and underemployed. The 23 recruits of the program will also be present at the event and will start their training after the opening ceremony. The Ship Repair Transportation Boot Camp is a 100 percent federally funded program from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant. The program aims to train individuals with the necessary skills to become professional ship repairers for the Cabras Marine Corp..

Island leaders, including senators from the 35th Guam Legislature, the Cabras Marine

Corp. president, and the commanding officer of Naval Base Guam will be present at the event, all of whom support this great milestone in workforce development in Guam. (PR)

Time management training set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions will be hosting a training on time management at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 26, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com. (PR)

Weightlifting competition on June 15

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship will be held on June 15, 2019, a Saturday, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 8, 2019. Entry fee is \$10, while the admission fee is \$5.

There will also be a competitors' meeting at noon, Saturday, June 8, 2019, at the NMPASI conference room in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

For more information, contact John Davis at 789-9211, Greg Borja at 787-6642, or Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807. (PR)

SSHS registration for ongoing students

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration forms for ongoing students for SY 2019-2020. Deadline for submission will be on Aug. 21, 2019. All ongoing students must re-register to be enrolled at SSHS. If you have any other questions email Victoria Apatang at victoria.apatang@cnmipss.org. (PR)



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Tel.: (670) 664-2411/4 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION FOR BID
ITB19-GOV-091**

**Repair and Renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building
FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 52**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the repair and renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available June 3, 2019, at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIC) \$70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and \$70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on June 7, 2019, at 9:00am ChST at the Evidence Preservation Building Susupe, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before June 17, 2019, to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: patrickguerrero@pa.gov.mp, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-091 Repair and Renovation of the Evidence Preservation Building**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST June 24, 2019, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidol.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 17, 2019, and the bid documents must be received no later than June 24, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 9:00 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 9:00 a.m. ChST June 17, 2019.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred and twenty calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Jack Reyes, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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**INVITATION FOR BID
ITB19-GOV-092**

**Repair and Renovation of the Public Assistance Office Building
FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 10**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of the Public Assistance Office Building Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

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A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

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- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
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Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred and twenty calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

One month left to apply for an SBA disaster loans

Small businesses in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands only have until July 1, 2019, to apply for a U.S. Small Business Administration federal disaster loan for economic injury caused by Typhoon Mangkhut that occurred last Sept. 10-11, 2018.

According to Tanya N. Garfield, director of the SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West, small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses

engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may apply for economic injury disaster loans of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

"Economic injury disaster loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the ap-

plicant suffered any property damage," Garfield said.

These low-interest federal disaster loans are available on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

The interest rate is 3.675 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional di-

saster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hardofhearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administra-

tion, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

To learn more, visit www.sba.gov. (PR)

Interior gives FSM \$830.85K

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded the Federated States of Micronesia a total of \$830,848 in fiscal year 2019 Technical Assistance Program grant support.

Doug Domenech, Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, said the money would be used to support both public auditor training as well as the expansion of robotics training to Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Oversight and accountability are essential for any government to be fiscally sound, and we are glad to see the FSM continue its focus on these important responsibilities," said Domenech. "In addition, we welcome the growing interest in STEM areas by students in the FSM focused on robotics training."

The grant funding provided for the Federated States of Micronesia will be used as follows:

■ FSM National Public Auditor's Office, Pohnpei State Public Auditor's Office, and Yap State Office of the Public Auditor: \$546,354 will be provided to enhance capacity building and professional development training initiatives for the various offices. Funding supports professional development and certification through training programs with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General and the annual Association of Certified Fraud Examiner Conference, among others. Funding this year will be used to purchase TEAM Mate audit software with a goal of connecting the

four state audit offices to the FSM national office. Finally, funding will support participation in the upcoming 30th Annual Conference of the Association of the Pacific Island Public Auditors, which will be from Aug. 26-30 on Guam. For more on the APIPA 2019 conference visit their website at www.apipa2019.org. The APIPA program is another program supported by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

■ Habele-Robo League: \$240,492 will be used to support student robotics teams at 23 public and private high schools across the Federated States of Micronesia where at least 450 students are participating in weekly in designing, building, and navigating robots. The FY 2019 funding will expand the program to include isolated schools on outer atolls in the FSM and Kosrae State.

"I am especially pleased to see that opportunities to participate in robotics provided by the Yap Robo League have now been extended to students in Kosrae State, covering the entire FSM," said Domenech. "When I last visited the FSM in June 2018, I had the honor of meeting with FSM Vice President Yosiwo George where we celebrated the expansion of the program to Pohnpei and Chuuk. We believe that this program has and will continue to impact students' lives for good."

Technical assistance program funding is made available each year by the U.S. Congress to benefit the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States. (PR)



Guests attend an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration last May 8, 2019, at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. The celebration included a class on lumpia making, a cultural talk and a heritage exhibit that went into detail about the customs and courtesies of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures.

U.S. AIR FORCE/CHIYANNA L. MAXWELL

grants, just two decades after the first Japanese immigrants arrived May 7, 1843.

"My family and I emigrated from the Philippines to Sacramento, California back in 2003," said Staff Sgt. Jane Nucal, 341st Missile Maintenance Squadron team chief for facility maintenance.

"Just like any other family that moved to the U.S., my

family was in search of a better life here as well. I have an uncle who retired from the Navy back in the 90's. After him, I'm the only one so far who has joined the military."

Members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander committee were eager to celebrate and share this heritage.

"It's great to find an amazing group of people who I

consider my military family and friends," said Senior Airman Nicki Agunos, 341st Force Support Squadron Missle Alert Facility feeding operations accountant. "All the while making great memories, enjoying each other's company and just having a fun time with one another. At the end of the day, this is what life is all about."

deliberations, the Legislature would get information and recommendations that would correct the negative impacts the measure created after the public hearing by the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism chaired by Rep. Ray Yumul. The acting governor said the issue was not discussed during the ceremony held Tuesday morning at the POLO Resource Center in Nauru for the CNMI-RP Friendship Week proclamation signing.

June 3, 2005

Diego: Labor Act still being ironed out

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente is optimistic that tension surrounding the proposed Alien Workers Act of 2004 would soon dissipate as efforts are being done to encourage the exchange of ideas to improve the measure. Benavente said that, through

Babauta in an interview upon returning from Japan yesterday afternoon. He did not elaborate, though, noting that "everything right now is uncertain with JAL." Babauta led a 10-member delegation to Tokyo this week to meet with JAL executives following reports of the airline's pullout from the Marianas by October this year.

CUC gets two-year fuel contract

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now assured of at least two years worth of fuel supply from Mobil after parties finally reached a long-term contract after two weeks of negotiations. Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed the contract upon arriving yesterday afternoon from his two-day trip to Japan. "The agreement is for two years. It guarantees that fuel will run the engines for the next two years. That guarantee was very much in doubt two or three weeks ago," said

governor's press secretary Peter A. Callaghan yesterday. Babauta declared a state of disaster emergency on May 19 due to unresolved power failures. The declaration resulted in the governor assuming control of CUC.

June 3, 2006

Minority bloc vows to block retirement bills

Unconvinced by the administration's proposals, the House minority bloc said it would lobby hard against the passage of the retirement writeoff and loan bills.

House minority leader Arnold I. Palacios said both the \$124-million writeoff of retirement liabilities and \$40-million retirement money loan for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are "not options." "The writeoff is not an option. Neither is the loan. It's not something that we should do. We've always been op-

posed to this from Day 1. We'll continue to oppose these. The administration proposals are not acceptable," said Palacios yesterday. He said that Republicans and even Democrats in the House would not support the proposals.

Recycling project takes off at Lib Day site

The Beautification Group, a coalition of different government agencies and private sector, kicked off Friday one of its community projects—a place for recycling awareness—at the Liberation activities venue at Fishing Base in Garapan. Tina Sablan, chair of the group's recycling subcommittee, told the media that it is part of the "Beautify CNMI" campaign headed by Rep. Cinta Kaipat with the participation of the government, private sector, non-profit organizations and individual volunteers.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 3, 2004

Chamber opposes bill on new tax collection procedure

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday voiced its concern over a legislative measure that seeks to stringently collect excise taxes for imported commodities before they are cleared by the Division of Customs, saying the bill would not ultimately solve tax delinquencies that previously reached millions of dollars in a year. With the still unstable economy, the Chamber said the government should give businesses leeway to allow them to pay their excise taxes. House Bill 14-127 reportedly seeks to amend the

law to mandate the collection of excise taxes before the issuance of Customs clearance to solve the perennial problem on timely tax collection. The Chamber opposed the bill, even as it noted a recent Customs Division report that about \$2.7 million of the \$19 million in excise tax revenue in Fiscal Year 2002 were unpaid.

Not all hope is lost on JAL

Gov. Juan N. Babauta remains hopeful that after the "massive restructuring" going on within Japan Airlines, the new company would continue to provide services to the CNMI. "Not all hope is lost with respect to JAL service to Saipan. Not all hopes are lost," said

USCG installs four buoys in Palau harbor

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Koror and with the support of the U.S. Department of the Interior, provided aids-to-navigation infrastructure improvements in the waters of Koror, Palau in early May in support of maritime safety and security development.

“The United States is proud to partner with the government and people of Palau to enhance maritime safety and contribute to the development of the Port of Koror,” said U.S. Ambassador to Palau Amy Hyatt. “The American people are grateful for the decades of friendship

between our two nations underscored by the Compact of Free Association.”

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Guam, set four buoys marking the main waterway in the Port of Koror. Three officials from Palau’s Ministry of Transportation were aboard the cutter to observe and participate in the operations. This work is part of a longer-term effort to assess and improve Palau’s maritime navigation system.

“The U.S. Coast Guard, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs,



Members of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* stand for a photo with representatives of the Palau Ministry of Transportation last May 5, 2019, off Palau. The *Sequoia* crew set four buoys in the waterway of the Port of Koror at the request of the U.S. Embassy in Koror.

U.S. COAST GUARD/USCGC SEQUOIA

Interior OKs more than \$1.2M for Palau

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior has approved more than \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2019 Technical Assistance Program grant support for the benefit of the Republic of Palau.

According to Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, these funds that are made available by the U.S. Congress each year for the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

He said the money would help Palau better assess health needs, improve collaboration among law enforcement and public safety divisions, modernize regulations to conserve natural and cultural resources, and strengthen maritime safety and security.

He stressed that the funding is critical to strengthening public services on the islands and laying a foundation for better economic development resources and opportunities.

“This year’s projects are only a small portion of the immensely beneficial relationship that the U.S. and Palau share under the Compact of Free Association,” he said. “[Interior] Secretary David Bernhardt and I are pleased to provide [the] funding assistance.”

Both Bernhardt and Domenech met with Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. last week as well as with President Hilda C. Heine of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and President David W. Panuelo of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The three presidents traveled to Washington for a meeting with President Donald J. Trump and other ranking U.S. officials. In these meetings, the United States, Palau, the RMI, and the FSM all reaffirmed their respective commitments to the Compacts of Free Association and contin-

ued close cooperation.

The grant funding will be used for the following:

■ Palau Ministry of Justice: \$364,174 to Provide Network Integration and Upgrade Data Systems. Funding will be used to develop and install networking software that will extract and share data among the four divisions under Palau’s Ministry of Justice: the Division of Immigration, the Office of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Division of Labor.

Each division currently has stand-alone systems and enhanced electronic networking will streamline and strengthen law enforcement and security through better information sharing. Pre-requisite firewall and security systems will also be incorporated to protect the integrity of the system.

■ Aids to Navigation Infrastructure: \$530,000 will be provided to the U.S. Coast Guard’s 14th District, headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii, who will work closely with the government of Palau to provide aids-to-navigation infrastructure improvements in the waters of Koror. These improvements directly support maritime safety and security development for Palau and the Western Pacific region.

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■ Palau Bureau of Public Health: \$240,492 to Perform a Community Health Assessment. The last such assessment was conducted in Palau over 15 years ago. Palau has worked closely with the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association to collect health data and conduct routine assessments. However, Palau still lacks the information needed to inform decision-makers about the health status of Palauans. The community health assessment will assist the health department in determining how to prioritize needs, allocate resources, and assist communities in addressing the key social determinants of health that influence choices and behaviors.

■ Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board: \$75,000 to Review and Modernize the Environmental Regulations in Palau. Funds will be used to modernize critical environmental regulations for the government of Palau. Updated regulations

are necessary to protect public health, conserve natural and cultural resources, and support to a sustainable high-end market tourist economy for Palau. The three most critical regulations to be updated as recommended by Palau are: the marine and fresh water quality regulations, the public water supply regulations, and the environmental impact statement regulations.

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and working jointly with U.S. Embassy Koror and the Republic of Palau, has improved the Palau maritime transportation system to ensure safe navigation,” said Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District. “Our work together is

essential to strengthening our relationship, improving regional maritime governance, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

Commercial, military and private vessels utilize the Port of Koror, a deep-water port that is essential to maritime

commerce and U.S. defense readiness. The Republic of Palau consists of 340 islands with a population of more than 22,500 people.

“Interior is pleased to be a partner in this endeavor between the U.S. government and the Republic of Palau to improve maritime safety and navigation,” said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs. “This is but one of many areas of collaboration that the U.S. and Palau enjoy under the Compact of Free Association relationship.” (USCG)

Coca-Cola, Foremost named beverage sponsors of Guam Liberation



Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, seated center, and the steering committee of the 75th Guam Liberation co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, seated second from right, and Legislative Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, seated second left, lead the announcement of the corporate sponsors at the press conference in Adelup on May 30, 2019. Marcos W. Fong, standing second from left, CEO, and Mike Brown, standing far right, regional sales director, Foremost Foods, Inc. and Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Guam), Inc., represent the beverage companies designated exclusive beverage sponsors of the 75th Guam Liberation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BARRIGADA HEIGHTS, Guam—The region’s leading non-alcoholic beverage companies, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Guam), Inc. and Foremost Foods, Inc., have been designated as the exclusive beverage sponsors of the 75th Guam Liberation.

As the exclusive beverage sponsors, Coca-Cola and Foremost will provide hydration at all of the activities comprising the 75th anniversary of Guam Liberation commemoration, including the 13 memorial events, the nightly carnival at Paseo, and the liberation parade.

The sponsorship under-

scores the enduring relationship between Guam and Foremost that dates back to the year 1949 when Foremost was established in Guam in the early years of recovery following World War II to serve primarily the needs of military personnel. At the request of then-governor Carlton Skinner, the company expanded its operations to serve the civilian population in 1950.

From its humble beginnings operating a small factory in the vicinity of Marbo near Andersen Air Force Base, Foremost has now grown to be the leading beverage company in the region, distributing dairy

products, purified drinking water, ready-to-drink coffees, and a wide array of Coca-Cola beverages to the Western Pacific including the Northern Marianas, Palau, Majuro, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

Marcos W. Fong, chief executive officer of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Guam), Inc. and Foremost Foods, Inc. said, “The histories of Foremost and the island are so intertwined it is a duty for us to support this important anniversary. Our company’s reason for being has always been to service the people of Guam and we are proud of that heritage.” (PR)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Beto's immigration plan is a big miss that will only divide

The trouble with presenting oneself as a unity candidate is that, eventually, you will have to deliver something that looks unifying.

But as we review Beto O'Rourke's plan for overhauling the nation's immigration system, we struggle to find anything to support his claims toward unity.

O'Rourke earned our recommendation for U.S. Senate because he set a political tone that promised to pull us away from the bitter partisanship too eagerly embraced by Sen. Ted Cruz.

The country has had enough of endless political warfare, and we were hopeful that O'Rourke might be a candidate with the kind of courage to lead us toward compromise and comity.

What we have seen of presidential candidate O'Rourke suggests that might not come to be.

We find little true compromise on the major issues in O'Rourke's immigration reform plan. The nine-page memo is passionate in its defense of immigrants, unflinching in its attack on the border wall, and hazy in its alternatives for border security. While we understand O'Rourke must work to stand out among the packed bench of the primary, he has come this far on a platform that suggested a meeting in the middle that this major policy proposal belies.

In his presidential immigration plan, we see the worst traits of O'Rourke's candidacy for Senate laid bare. In debates with Cruz, O'Rourke avoided specificity in favor of gestures of unity—gestures that were never finally backed up with unifying policy.

His immigration plan departs from serious proposals Congress has grappled with that would see increased security as a trade-off for paths to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants. His nod to security is to increase staffing and "modernize" our ports.

Last year, we recommended that Congress strike a compromise that would trade some 230 miles of physical barrier along a 2,000-mile border in exchange for full protection and a path to citizenship for the Dreamers who lost the protection of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

That is the sort of fair compromise that would acknowledge the nation's right to protect its border with the necessity that we treat migrants with compassion and care fitting for a nation like ours. We applaud O'Rourke's compassionate stance towards people brought here as children, as well as his overall humanitarian approach to immigration. We wish it would more plainly acknowledge the need for security.

Through his rhetoric, President Trump has marked "the wall" as a battle line. But O'Rourke cannot dismiss the need for securing the border without alienating many of the Republicans he would claim to seek common ground with.

A true unity candidate will find a way to be honest with his own party that compromise is on the table.

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Well,
New York City
is trying
congestion
pricing...

MOUNT EVEREST

The 'widow maker' needs a new name

During a recent and engaging presentation for patients on Medicare, I received a pamphlet listing crucial tests for people of a certain age. One recommendation rattled me: Men from age 65 to 75 who had smoked more than 100 cigarettes should have an ultrasound to rule out an abdominal aortic aneurysm. As a teenager, I did my share of stupid things, including smoking. Shouldn't women be screened too?

This felt like one more sign that medical bias is still seeping into women's healthcare.

For most of medical history, the cells, tissues, animals and people studied in scientific research were male. Women have long been underrepresented in clinical trials to evaluate treatment and outcomes for abdominal aortic aneurysms, according to the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

While these aneurysms are four to six times more common in men than women, rates for females increase with age. And when a postmenopausal woman develops this type of aneurysm, she is at grave risk from dying of a rupture. (An abdominal aortic aneurysm is a swelling of the aorta—the blood vessel that supplies blood from your heart to the rest of your body. If it bursts, the bleeding is often fatal.)

What's more, women over 65 who have heart problems or a history of smoking have elevated rates of these dangerous aneurysms. Some experts believe that women who have those risk factors should be screened for the condition.

Heart disease is another issue that illustrates the gender divide. It is the No. 1 killer of women but many people—including some doctors—are not aware of women's unique cardiac risks and symptoms, which is a "very serious issue when women seek emergency medical care," said Dr. Alyson J. McGregor, director of the Division of Sex and Gender in Emergency Medicine at Brown University. For instance, women with heart disease may not have chest pain but instead experience shortness of breath, fatigue, sweating, back pain or indigestion.

Female heart attack patients typically fare worse than men, with women of color facing the greatest dangers, according to a 2016 "scientific statement" by the American Heart Association. It also noted that cardiac disease in women remains underresearched and undertreated.

For a book on the healthcare challenges women face, I interviewed an athletic Latina woman who suddenly experienced fatigue and shortness of breath. The diagnosis was asthma. When she was finally granted a referral to see a cardiologist six weeks later, she ended up being rushed into surgery for a life-threatening

By EMILY DWASS
Los Angeles Times

Emily Dwass is author of the forthcoming Diagnosis Female: How Medical Bias Endangers Women's Health.



ing artery blockage.

The type of heart attack she had is known as a "widow maker." Perhaps it's time to come up with a new name for this killer.

On her own, this woman discovered that a serious pregnancy complication—preeclampsia—she had decades ago might have triggered her crisis. Her cardiologist was unaware of the link, despite research showing that women with preeclampsia, characterized by high blood pressure and organ damage, should be monitored for cardiovascular problems. Not that long ago, medical students were taught that preeclampsia posed no long-term maternal health risks.

I recently became concerned about my own cardiac health, when my LDL—or "lousy" cholesterol, the kind you want to go down—spiked, even though I watch my weight, walk more than an hour each day and eat ice cream only in my dreams. High LDL increases cardiac risks, and patients are advised to focus on diet and exercise as a first line of defense. But consuming more oatmeal or adding steps to my daily tally might not make a difference because of a looming risk factor: Strokes and heart attacks are prevalent on my family tree.

I wondered if the cholesterol-busting statin that works so well for my husband would do the trick for me. Until relatively recently, male participants outnumbered females in testing of statins and the drugs' effectiveness in women is up for debate.

Thanks to the American Heart Association, advocacy groups and scientists pushing for the inclusion of sex as a biological variable in medical research, real progress is being made in women's heart health. But one ongoing threat involves doctors who don't always listen to women or believe them when they are describing their symptoms. This can have disastrous consequences. Despite advances that have been made, the greatest tool women may have is to advocate for themselves and to ask questions such as: What tests should I have to rule out a serious problem?

As for me, if my next LDL lab results are still lousy, I'll ask—correction, I'll politely insist—that I be referred to a cardiologist.

EDITORIAL POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's holding up a \$19 billion disaster aid bill?

A\$19 billion disaster aid bill has been circulating in Congress for weeks now, but America's cities, towns and villages have yet to see any of the funds. Once signed, the bill would provide billions of dollars to help communities struggling to rebuild after a series of hurricanes, wildfires and destructive storms destroyed essential infrastructure. It also would have extended the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30. So, what happened?

Before Congress left town for the Memorial Day recess, the bill looked like it would pass. After last-minute negotiations between the White House and Senate leadership, the Senate finally agreed to the bill. But because it took them so long, the House had already departed Capitol Hill.

Procedurally, the House, while it was in pro forma session during the recess, could have agreed to the Senate-passed bill if there were no objections. However, it only takes one member of the House, who is present on the floor, to object and request a recorded vote count.

On Friday, May 24, 2019, Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, was the lone member to object to the passage of the \$19 billion disaster aid package. On Tuesday, May 28, the House once again tried to pass the legislation through unanimous consent, but this time Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, objected. The House once again tried to pass the legislation on Thursday, but Rep. John W. Rose, R-Tennessee. However, a separate two-week NFIP extension bill did pass.

A small group of conservative lawmakers objected to the bill's passage under the House's unanimous consent rules passage because they believe the bill needs to include funding for the border wall and they want a recorded vote on the bill.

The procedural block is putting the recovery efforts in cities, towns, and villages that have been hit the hardest by

the recent disasters in jeopardy. Without immediate federal support, the losses to the local economy, jobs, and population mean it will take these communities much to recover and rebuild.

Regrettably, the delay was avoidable if the Senate and House agreed long before leaving town, but ongoing partisanship is creating a real toll on local governments. From federal government shutdowns to a lack of progress on key legislative priorities such as infrastructure or failure to provide emergency assistance to help people recover from disasters – it is inconceivable that Members of Congress have lost the ability to compromise and pass bills for the good of the country and the people they represent.

While the bill is expected to pass as soon as the House returns on Monday, there is very little that can be done to stop the few Representatives that are blocking its passage before that. Members of Congress should take an example from local elected officials who work in non-partisan ways and compromise to help build their economies, invest in their infrastructure and keep their constituents safe.

Key highlights:

- \$2.43 billion for Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to help communities rebuild housing, businesses, and public infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas affected by major natural disasters.
- \$600 million for Economic Development Assistance grants to provide programs for flood mitigation, disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in areas affected by major disasters in 2018 and 2019.
- \$1.65 billion for roads and bridges to reimburse states

By YUCEL ORS

<https://cityesspeak.org>

Yucel Ors is the program director of public safety and crime prevention at the National League of Cities.



and territories for damage from natural disasters to roads and bridges in the National Highway System.

- \$1.993 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damages to Army Corps' projects.
- \$3 billion for agricultural assistance for crop and livestock losses due to hurricanes, typhoons, volcanic activities, tornados, floods, snowstorms, or wildfires during 2018 and 2019.
- \$630 million for nutrition assistance to Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and America Samoa.
- \$720 million for wildland fire activities to repay non-fire accounts for fiscal year 2018 wildland fire activities.
- \$394.4 million for water quality and for State and Tribal Assistance Grants to assess post-disaster water quality conditions, replace damaged and destroyed monitoring equipment, and for states to inspect and clean up hazardous waste facilities.
- \$100 million for mental health to support behavioral health treatment, crisis counseling, helplines, and other related activities for individuals affected by recent natural disasters.
- \$165 million for education recovery services to meet the educational needs of students in areas affected by disasters.

Act now to head off looming 'deepfakes' disasters

Parody and satire are a legitimate part of public debate. Doctored videos are all over the place. Some are funny. Some are meant to make a point.

Arguments of this kind are being made to support Facebook's decision not to take down the doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in which she was made to appear drunk or otherwise impaired.

One version, posted on the Facebook page Politics WatchDog, was seen over two million times in just a few days. There is no question that many viewers thought that the video was real.

Acknowledging that it was fake, Facebook said, "We don't have a policy that stipulates that the information you post on Facebook must be true." (1)

Rather than deleting the Pelosi video, Facebook said that it would append a small informational box to it, reading, in part, "before sharing this content, you might want to know that there is additional reporting on this," and linking to two fact-checking sites that found it to be fake. Facebook also said that it would also "heavily reduce" the appearance of the video in people's news feeds.

In striking the right balance, Facebook is in an admittedly tough position, but these steps are an inadequate response to a growing danger.

Also last week, the responsibilities of Facebook, Twitter and other social-media providers were put in sharp relief by an announcement, both creepy and amazing, from engineers at Samsung. They have made major progress in the production of "deepfakes": faked videos of human beings, alive or dead, that appear real. The new approach can take very few images – potentially just one – and produce "highly realistic and personalized talking head models."

Before long, any public figure, and indeed anyone who has ever been photographed, can be shown to say and do anything at all. If Russia continues to seek to undermine the electoral process in the U.S., it will have (and may already have) a powerful tool.

To respond to the evident risks, here is a proposal, meant tentatively and as an invitation for discussion:

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and others should not allow their platforms to be used to display and spread doctored videos or deepfakes that portray people in a false and negative light and so are injurious to their reputations – unless reasonable observers would be able to tell that those videos are satires or parodies, or are not real.

The proposal grows directly out of libel law, which (simply stated) imposes liability on people who make false statements of fact that are injurious to people's reputations. Those who make a doctored video or a deepfake might well produce something libelous, or very close to it.

It is true that in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, decided in 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment imposes restrictions on libel actions brought by public figures, who must show that the speaker knew that the statement was false, or acted with "reckless indifference" to the question of truth or falsity.

But with doctored videos or deepfakes, the court's standard is met. Those who design such material certainly know that what they are producing is not real.

To be sure, many doctored videos are legitimate exercises in creativity and political commentary, including satire, humor and ridicule. The same is true of the coming deepfakes.

If videos show the Beatles playing Taylor Swift songs, or Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders dressed in Nazi uniforms and looking like Adolf Hitler, let freedom ring. In such cases, reasonable viewers would not think that they are watching something real.

It is true that the key terms in my proposal – "false and negative light" and "injurious to their reputations" – are vague. In some cases, their application would require an exercise of judgment. We could easily imagine serious disputes.

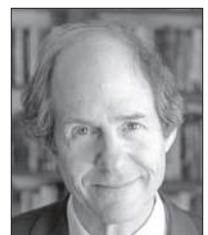
In that light, some social-media platforms, including Facebook, might reject the whole idea and conclude that it's better to inform people that a video isn't real, rather than to take it down altogether.

But if a newspaper prints a libelous statement, it's not enough for it to append a note saying, "This isn't true." Many

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN

Bloomberg News

Cass R. Sunstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is the author of The Cost-Benefit Revolution and a co-author of Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness.



readers will accept the libel, not the note. If the newspaper wants to avoid liability, it will not publish the statement in the first place.

In a sense, doctored videos and deepfakes are even worse than purely verbal libels. Viewers of convincing images might continue to think, in some part of their mind, that what they saw captured reality.

That's especially damaging if we are speaking of current or aspiring political leaders. Such libels do not merely injure the person at whom they are aimed; they injure the democratic process itself. This is true whether the victim is Nancy Pelosi, Elizabeth Warren, Lindsey Graham or Donald Trump.

It's right to emphasize that Facebook is a social-media provider, not a newspaper. But it is also a private company, not a government. Because the First Amendment applies only to government, Facebook, like all private providers, has a lot of room to maneuver. It is free to provide safeguards against unambiguously harmful speech.

To their credit, Facebook and other social-media providers have proved willing to rethink their practices. With respect to doctored videos and deepfakes meant to undermine or destroy people's reputations, it's crucial to get ahead of what is bound to become a serious threat to individuals and self-government alike.

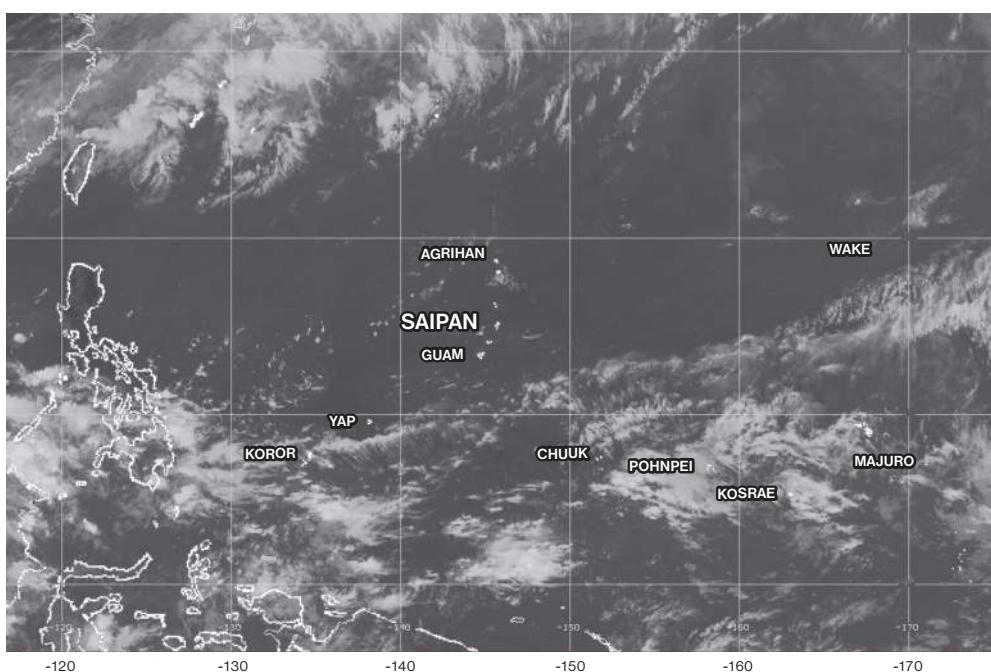
(1) I have served as an occasional adviser to Facebook, but not on the issues discussed in this column.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°
79°	89°	79°	89°	79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:46 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. Water vapor satellite shows an upper-level low west of the Marianas which is slowly moving farther west. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 13 to 21 knots through the lowest 9 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed mainly of east swell and east wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88°	/	80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88°	/	80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61°	/	55°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	90°	/	64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84°	/	81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	74°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66°	/	52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71°	/	59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	97°	/	81°
Melbourne	Showers	54°	/	45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86°	/	78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	72°	/	58°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	70°
Paris	Showers	72°	/	55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79°	/	64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75°	/	59°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93°	/	66°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67°	/	55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	81°	/	63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	76°	/	58°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
1:29 AM	LOW TIDE	1.03	
6:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95	
1:54 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.35	
8:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:26 AM	6:34 PM	-
Tuesday	6:17 AM	7:33 PM	-
Wednesday	7:12 AM	8:34 PM	-
Thursday	8:11 AM	9:32 PM	-
Friday	9:13 AM	10:29 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10		

Business

China blames US for trade dispute, ‘unacceptable demands’

BEIJING (AP)—China issued a report Sunday blaming the United States for a trade dispute and said it won’t back down on “major issues of principle.”

The statement from the Cabinet spokesman’s office said that China has kept its word throughout 11 rounds of talks and will honor its commitments if a trade agreement is reached.

“A country’s sovereignty and dignity must be respected, and any agreement reached by the two sides must be based on equality and mutual benefit,” it said.

The U.S. has accused China of stealing trade secrets and forced technology transfers. The Trump administration has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to tax the \$300 billion in imports that have so far been spared. It also escalated the stakes this month by putting the Chinese telecom giant Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bars U.S. companies from supplying it with computer chips, software and other components without government approval.

Beijing responded by im-

posing tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. products, which went into effect Saturday. It also retaliated against the U.S. blacklisting of Huawei by announcing Friday that it will establish its own list of “unreliable entities” consisting of foreign businesses, corporations and individuals.

Being published in eight languages, Sunday’s report lays out China’s argument for blaming Washington for the frictions as well as the costs to both sides.

“Whatever the future might bring, China is confident of meeting challenges head on, turning risks into opportunities and opening new chapters,” it said. “China remains committed to its own cause no matter how the external environment changes.”

“We still have sufficient room for fiscal and monetary policy maneuver” to maintain health of the Chinese economy amid frictions, it said.

Wang Shaowen, vice commerce minister and deputy international trade representative, said China had been forced to “take forceful measures in response” to U.S.



In this Saturday, June 1, 2019, photo, Chinese shop for toys at the newly opened FAO Schwarz toy store at the capital city’s popular shopping mall in Beijing. **AP**

actions and denied China had backtracked on its earlier commitments. “It is irresponsible of the U.S. to accuse and

smear China,” Wang said.

In negotiations “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed,” Wang said. He said

the U.S. had made unacceptable demands, including on tariffs and compulsory requirements that infringed on

Chinese sovereignty.

He said of the U.S. tactics: “You give them an inch, they take a yard.”

Trump turbulence slows momentum for North America trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The momentum that supporters have tried to build for a new North American trade deal has run into some Trump turbulence.

The Trump administration had taken steps in recent weeks to work with Democratic and Republican lawmakers to address concerns about the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada agreement.

Then President Donald Trump made his threat this past week of a 5% tariff on Mexican imports unless America’s southern neighbor cracked down on Central American migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

His recent decision to remove U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico had appeased mostly Republicans who were using their trade vote as leverage to do away with those penalties.

The administration also had committed to meeting with a group of House Democrats to allay their concerns. That gesture created good will, and as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described it, put Democrats “on a path to yes.”

Now it’s unclear where that path may lead.

Influential business groups fear that Trump’s threat against Mexico could derail the proposed trade agreement.

“The last thing we want to

do is put that landmark deal—and the 2 million manufacturing jobs that depend on North American trade—in jeopardy,” said Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said it was considering legal action to block the tariffs from going into effect.

Some GOP senators are rankled, too, most notably Charles Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

“This is a misuse of presidential tariff authority and counter to congressional intent,” Grassley said.

Congressional aides from both parties said that it’s too soon to say whether Trump’s proposal will derail the agreement. But it does make it harder for lawmakers to assess how the agreement would improve the economic landscape if the tariffs on Mexico go into place.

Democrats seem mostly concerned with other breaking developments.

Hours before Trump announced his tariff plan, his administration tried to set up the agreement for a possible congressional vote before the August recess. The administration completed the formal steps necessary to start the clock for submitting legislation to Congress.

Pelosi said that was “not a positive step” and “indicates a lack of knowledge on the part of the administration on the policy and process to pass a trade agreement.”

Democrats want to strengthen enforcement of labor and environmental standards in Mexico. They have pushed for Mexico to change labor laws that have encouraged wages as low as \$1 or \$2 per hour at some plants, giving U.S. companies a strong incentive to move operations south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexico lawmakers have approved a law that requires secret-ballot union votes and proof of workers’ consent for contracts. Democrats in Washington want to ensure follow-through, and Pelosi still hold the final say in determining when, or if, the agreement comes up for a vote.

Pelosi also joined several Republican senators in slamming Trump’s tariff threat, saying it is “not rooted in wise trade policy but has more to do with bad immigration policy on his part.”

“Yet again, the president is sowing chaos over the border instead of delivering solutions for American workers and for American consumers,” Pelosi said.

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said the tariffs should not jeopardize

passage of the trade pact and that the president simply wants Mexico to do more to stem the flow of migrants.

She said the White House is confident it would pass the Democratic-run House, if Pelosi put it to a vote.

Trump said he had the authority to impose a 5 percent levy on all goods imported from Mexico and pledged to increase those duties to as high as 25 percent if Mexico did not dramatically reduce the number of migrants crossing the border.

He claimed in a tweet Saturday that companies that have located in Mexico “will move back to the United States once the Tariff reaches the higher levels.”

Investors have responded negatively, with the Dow Jones industrial average closing Friday down roughly 355 points, or 1.4%.

Still, Conway told reporters that “tariffs are a good way to get a trading partner’s attention, and apparently it did.”

Mexico’s foreign relations secretary, Marcelo Ebrard, announced that he and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would lead talks Wednesday in Washington, a move seen as potentially easing tensions and avoiding retaliatory tariffs.

Both Mexico and Canada are moving ahead with steps toward ratifying the trade agreement.

Reports: Justice Dept. preparing an antitrust probe of Google

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department is readying an investigation of Google’s business practices and whether they violate antitrust law, according to news reports.

The search giant was fined a record \$2.72 billion by European regulators in 2017 for abusing its dominance of the online search market. In the U.S., the Federal Trade Commission made an antitrust investigation of Google but closed it in 2013 without taking action.

Now the Justice Department has undertaken an antitrust probe of the company’s search and other businesses, according to reports by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and Bloomberg News. They cited unnamed people familiar with the matter.

Justice Department spokesman Jeremy Edwards declined to comment Saturday. Google declined any comment.

Google, owned by Alphabet Inc., has faced mounting scrutiny as regulators around the world have focused on tech companies’ business practices over the past year. In addition to the 2017 record fine, European regulators also slapped a \$1.7

billion penalty on the company in March for barring websites from selling ads from rivals alongside some Google-served ads near search results.

Google says it has now ended that practice.

The company made changes voluntarily when the FTC shut down its investigation, including letting advertisers use information from their Google ad campaigns to create campaigns with rivals.

But an FTC staff report that was released years later showed that the agency staff had urged the presidentially-appointed commissioners to bring a lawsuit against Google. That never happened.

Google commands the lead in digital ad revenue by a wide margin, controlling 31.1% of global digital ad dollars, according to eMarketer’s 2019 estimates. Facebook is a distant second with 20.2%.

Politicians and outside antitrust analysts have expressed concern in recent years that Google controls too much of the digital ad process. It makes the technology, hosts the largest search site where ads appear and collects data from all ad campaigns that it runs.

Nation

Did 'silencer' make a difference in Virginia Beach carnage?

By LISA MARIE PANE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The shooter who killed 12 people in a government office building in Virginia Beach used a firearm equipped with a suppressor that muffles the sound of gunfire. It's the nightmare scenario that gun-control advocates have warned about amid efforts in recent years to ease restrictions on the devices, which they say can help shooters escape detection and inflict more carnage.

But gun-rights advocates and most law enforcement experts say DeWayne Craddock's use of a suppressor likely had no bearing on his ability to kill so many people in so little time Friday.

Virginia is among 42 states that allow residents to purchase and possess suppressors, though some cities and towns—including Virginia Beach—prohibit them.

Known colloquially as a "silencer," a suppressor was attached to the .45-caliber handgun that police say the shooter used to kill a dozen people on three floors of the building where he worked before police closed in and, after a protracted gunbattle, fatally shot him.

That could at least partially explain why survivors of the attack said they were caught off guard and initially puzzled by what was happening. One described hearing something that sounded like a nail gun.

"This is the concern we were talking about when Republicans were trying to deregulate silencers as 'ear protection,'" said David Chipman, a retired agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-



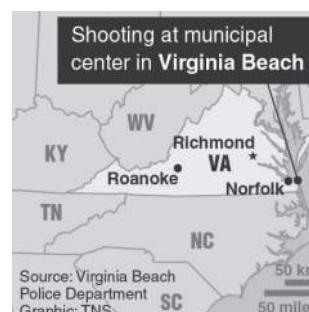
A vehicle belonging to suspect DeWayne Craddock is removed from a parking lot outside a municipal building that was the scene of a shooting, Saturday, June 1, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Va. AP

arms and Explosives and now the senior policy adviser with Giffords, a gun-control lobbying group.

"Especially on a handgun, a suppressor will distort the sound in such a way that it would not immediately be recognizable as gunfire to people who sort of know what that sound is."

Others say the shooter's use of a silencer was less of a factor in enabling him to carry out the rampage than was his familiarity with the building and even possibly his military background, both of which may have given him a tactical advantage.

"A suppressor does not alter the lethality of the weapon at



all. All it does is just limit the noise it makes," said Gregory Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who was a member of the bureau's elite Hostage Response Team. "It doesn't increase the rate of fire. It doesn't do anything other than make it more comfortable to shoot because it's not so loud."

It's not immediately clear

how long Friday's attack lasted, or how much time passed before the first police officers arrived. The police department is in the same complex as the building where the shooting took place.

It also wasn't yet known how Craddock got the suppressor he used on his handgun, though authorities have said he legally purchased multiple firearms recently.

Authorities have three days to conduct a background check when someone is buying a firearm. But suppressors are regulated by the National Firearms Act, which also governs the sale of machine guns, and the extensive background check can take upward of

eight months or more before the sale can go through.

Despite the barriers, suppressors have gained in popularity. In 2008, when West Valley City, Utah-based SilencerCo was formed, about 18,000 of the devices were being sold each year. The company, which controls an estimated 70 percent of the market, sells roughly that many each month.

Nicknamed "cans," the devices were invented in the early 1900s by MIT-educated Hiram Percy Maxim, who also invented a muffler for gasoline engines. They were brought under NFA regulations after Depression-era game wardens expressed concern that hunters

would use them to poach.

A suppressor does not eliminate the sound a gun makes but generally diminishes it by 20 to 35 decibels, leaving most guns still louder than your average ambulance siren.

"Clearly this was an individual who did understand and have experience with firearms and had given potentially some forethought into the advantage that using a suppressor would offer him, particularly the suppressor coupled with the caliber of weapon he was using," said Thor Eells, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association and a retired law enforcement officer with the Colorado Springs Police Department, where he oversaw a SWAT division.

Some have questioned how secure the building was where police say the shooter and all but one of his victims worked. A government facility, the building is open to the public, but security passes are required to enter inner offices, conference rooms and other work areas, officials said.

As a current employee, the shooter would have had such a pass and would have known the floor plan, areas that were "easy to control," where the best places to hide were and how to move quickly from one area to another, Eells said.

While responding police might have had some familiarity with the building, it's very possible the shooter knew it a lot better after working there for years.

His protracted gunfight with law enforcement officers would indicate that he "was in a place that was difficult for officers to access or engage," Eells said.

In central US, levee breaches flood some communities

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Crews were making a "last ditch effort" on Saturday to save low-lying parts of a small Arkansas city from floodwaters pouring through a breached levee, and authorities downstream were warning people to leave a neighborhood that sits across the swollen river from the state capital.

Further north in Iowa, a flood barrier along the swollen Mississippi River failed Saturday, flooding four to six blocks of downtown Burlington, a city of about 25,000 people that is 170 miles (274 kilometers) southeast of Des Moines.

On Friday, the Arkansas River, which has been flooding communities for more than a week, tore a 40-foot (12-meter) hole in a levee in

Dardanelle, a city of about 4,700 people roughly 100 miles (160 kilometers) upstream from Little Rock.

Mayor Jimmy Witt said Saturday that officials don't believe a temporary levee being constructed will stop the water from flooding the south side of Dardanelle, but he hopes it will buy time for residents of up to 800 threatened homes to prepare.

"We have started a last ditch effort to try and protect the southern borders of the city," he said at a news conference.

The river has been widening the levee breach and floodwaters have been slowly approaching homes, officials said. Water from some creeks and tributaries has already flooded some houses, they said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman taking photos dies in plunge off California waterfall

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a woman plunged to her death down a Northern California waterfall after she slipped and lost her footing while taking photos. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District said in a statement that the woman died Friday at Eagle Falls. Water cascades 150 feet (45 meters) from the waterfall overlooking Lake Tahoe. Fire district spokeswoman Erin Holland said Saturday that witnesses reported the young woman was too close to the edge. There was no guardrail blocking access to the area. The district says her death is "a sad reminder to be cautious when taking selfies and other photos

in dangerous areas." Holland says very cold water feeding the waterfall is moving extremely fast because of snowmelt from record snowfall in the surrounding Sierra Nevada mountains. The woman was not identified.

Alabama girl honored for role in saving grandmother

ATMORE, Ala. (AP)—An 8-year-old south Alabama girl is being honored for her role in helping save the life of her grandmother. Sheriff's officials in Escambia County say second-grader Kenleigh Madison was with her grandmother in Atmore when the woman's breathing machine stopped working. She has emphysema. WPMI-TV reports the girl called 911 to get emerg-

ency crews to the home, and she directed them around an impassable driveway. Deputy Jeff Weaver says the girl knew exactly what to do, and she even called back to check on rescuers. Kenleigh says she was scared and started crying, but she loves her grandmother and wanted to help. The woman was taken to a hospital and spent a week in treatment. Weaver and Escambia Sheriff Heath Jackson presented Kenleigh with a life-saving award recently.

Public pressure prompts Ohio library to cancel LGBTQ event

NEWARK, Ohio (AP)—Public opposition that included Ohio's Republican House speaker has prompted a county library outside Colum-

bus to cancel an LGBTQ program for teens. The Newark Advocate reports the Friday event at the Licking County Library in Newark was scheduled ahead of the city's Pride festival next weekend. It was supposed to feature a tutorial on drag queen makeup, crafts, games and a safe sex program. It drew criticism on social media and a letter from Rep. Larry Householder, who vented about the makeup tips and called the event a "stunningly bizarre breach of the public trust." The Newark Ohio Pride Coalition responded by saying the program was privately funded. The Delaware County Library, also in central Ohio, canceled a teen "Drag 101" event this week following hostile and threatening phone calls.

Asia

PH ships 69 containers of garbage back to Canada

SUBIC, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, one of two Southeast Asian countries that protested being treated like dumpsites by wealthier nations, on Friday shipped 69 containers of what its officials called illegally transported garbage back to Canada.

Administrator Wilma Eisma of Subic Bay freeport said the tons of garbage were loaded overnight on the container ship M/V Bavaria, which left on a 20-day journey to the Canadian port city of Vancouver and ended a “sordid chapter in our history.” The Bavaria will stop at a Taiwanese port before heading to Canada, she said.

Environmental activists, including those from Greenpeace and EcoWaste Coalition, welcomed the Bavaria’s arrival at Subic Bay, and on Thursday sailed on board a small outrigger with a streamer reading, “Philippines: not a garbage dumping ground!”

President Rodrigo Duterte had threatened to forcibly ship back the trash, which officials said was transported to the Philippines in 103 containers in 2013 to 2014, and falsely declared as recyclable plastic scraps. Several containers of the trash had been disposed of, including in a landfill, leaving 69 containers of electrical and household waste, including used diapers, rotting in two Philippine ports.

The Philippine government recalled its ambassador and consuls in Canada earlier this



Cargo ship M/V Bavaria docks at Subic port in Zambales province, northwestern Philippines on Thursday, May 30, 2019. AP

month over Ottawa’s failure to comply with a May 15 deadline to take back the waste.

“I think the message that we’re sending to the world is that we will not be a pushover and, moreover, that the president is really somebody to reckon with,” Eisma told The Associated Press.

The return of the garbage removes a six-year thorn in relations between the two countries, especially under Duterte, a temperamental leader who took office in mid-2016. He has resented international criticism, including by Ca-

nadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, of his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead.

The countries had sought to resolve the problem for years, with Trudeau saying in 2017 that legal issues preventing the return of the garbage had been resolved.

The return, however, was delayed by other issues despite Canadian assurances of its willingness to take back the garbage that Trudeau said was shipped to Manila in a private commercial transaction.

Last week, Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said the government had awarded a contract to French shipping giant Bollore Logistics Canada, calling for the return of the containers by the end of June.

But presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo rejected the plan, saying the Duterte administration would look for a private shipping company to

transport the garbage sooner.

“If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters,” Panelo said. “The president’s stance is as principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations.”

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has

S. Korea urges restraint after North’s missile test

SINGAPORE (AP)—South Korea’s Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo on Saturday fended off calls to step up pressure on North Korea after it test-fired missiles last month.

Jeong told an annual security conference in Singapore that the tests were being investigated and a conclusion is within reach.

“There are discussions whether or not it is a short-range ballistic missile. There is a perspective that it is a Russian Iskander missile, or it is a new tactical ballistic missile,” he said.

“There are data that we can verify, and we are working off those data to make sure we have a verification.”

Jeong was responding to a question on whether the tests were a violation of a military agreement between South and North Korea last September to halt acts of aggression against each other.

He said the North was “in fact acting within the boundaries” of the agreement and ten-

sions between their militaries “have been lowered to a significant extent.”

“So currently the actions done by the North Korean regime have the intent to carry out the peace process through dialogue and talks. And I believe that’s the hidden intent behind the lines in terms of their missile launches.”

Jeong called on the international community to “assure North Korea that the decision to denuclearize is indeed the right decision.”

He said that South Korea sees humanitarian aid and the lowering of military tensions as ways “to lead North Korea into conversation and away from ... the ways of the past.”

North Korea itself has defended the launches, saying it was exercising its right to self-defense.

The U.S. and Japan say the short-range ballistic missile tests on May 4 and 9 were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The tests

ended a pause in launches that began in late 2017, and came amid deadlocked negotiations to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons.

Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya, who spoke at the same session on Korean security, stressed that a strict implementation of sanctions against North Korea was necessary.

He specifically directed his comments at South Korea, China and Russia.

“We need to enhance surveillance on a global scale while strengthening effort locally to ensure the full implementation of sanctions,” Iwaya said.

Earlier Saturday, U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan told the Shangri-La Dialogue conference that North Korea “remains an extraordinary threat” and has “neared a point where it could credibly strike regional allies, U.S. territory, and our forward-deployed forces.”

SINGAPORE (AP)—China’s defense minister warned Sunday that its military will “resolutely take action” to defend Beijing’s claims over self-ruled Taiwan and disputed South China Sea waters.

Speaking at an annual security conference in Singapore,

Gen. Wei Fenghe did not direct the threat at the U.S. but loaded his address with criticism of activities by Washington, including support for Taiwan and leading so-called “freedom of navigation” operations in the strategic waterways that China virtually claims as its own.

Wei said the People’s Liberation Army would not “yield a single inch of the country’s sacred land.”

China’s ruling Communist Party maintains that Taiwan is part of China, and has used increasingly aggressive rhetoric toward the democratic island, which split from the mainland amid a civil war 70 years ago.

It opposes Taiwan’s independence and formally says it seeks a “peaceful reunification” while refusing to rule out the use of force if necessary to achieve that goal.

“The PLA has no intention to cause anybody trouble but it is not afraid to face up to troubles. Should anybody risk crossing the bottom line, the PLA will resolutely take action and defeat all enemies,” Wei said.

Relations between Beijing and Taipei have deteriorated since Taiwan elected a pro-independence president, Tsai Ing-wen, in 2016. China has since increased diplomatic pressure, cut off its contacts with the island’s government and discouraged travel there by Chinese tourists.

“China must be and will be reunified. We find no excuse not to do so. If anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese military has no choice but to fight at all costs, at all costs, for national unity,” Wei stressed.

“We will strive for the prospect of peaceful unification with utmost sincerity and greatest efforts, but we make no promise to renounce the use of force.”

Wei was addressing defense chiefs, officials and academics at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

also criticized the practice of wealthier countries such as the United States, Canada and Japan sending their non-recyclable waste to poorer countries.

Speaking in Tokyo on Thursday, Mahathir said it was “grossly unfair” and should stop. His comments came a few days after his government announced plans to return thousands of tons of plastic waste to mostly Western countries.

China banned the import of plastic waste last year, causing other Southeast Asian nations to become new destinations.

Philippine environmental groups urged the Duterte administration on Thursday to ban all imports of waste and ratify the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits the import of waste for any reason, including recycling. They cited the discovery of other waste shipments to the Philippines from South Korea in 2018 and more recently from Australia and Hong Kong.

The garbage issue has been the latest strain in Philippine relations with Canada under Duterte. Last year, he canceled a multimillion-dollar agreement to buy 16 helicopters from Canada after Trudeau’s government decided to review the deal due to concerns that the Philippine military might use the aircraft in counterinsurgency assaults.

China vows military action if Taiwan, sea claims opposed

U.S. Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, who spoke to the same gathering on Saturday, was not present at Wei’s speech. Shanahan called China’s efforts to steal technology from other nations and militarize man-made outposts in the South China Sea a “toolkit of coercion” and urged it to stop activities the U.S. perceives as hostile.

China is pitted against smaller Southeast Asian neighbors in multiple disputes over island reefs, corals and lagoons in the South China Sea, where it constructed seven outposts equipped with airstrips, radar and missile stations that Shanahan said Saturday could become “toll-booths” in one of the world’s busiest waterways.

Beijing is currently firming up a pact with four rival claimants, containing norms and rules aimed at preventing a shooting war in the disputed waters.

On Thursday, China’s Defense Ministry dismissed a report that Australian navy pilots were hit by lasers earlier in May while exercising in the waters claimed by China.

World

Cruise ship captain arrested in deadly Budapest boat crash

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

—A Hungarian judge on Saturday ordered the formal arrest of a captain whose Viking river cruise ship collided with a sightseeing boat on the Danube River, sinking the tourist boat and leaving seven South Koreans dead and 21 other people missing.

Authorities said water levels in Budapest are expected to fall quickly in the coming days, helping efforts to salvage the wreckage that may still contain victims' bodies.

The judge ordered the 64-year-old Ukrainian captain of the Viking Sigyn cruise ship formally arrested for 30 days. He said the captain could be released on bail—subject to him wearing a tracking device and remaining in Budapest—but prosecutors are appealing that decision.

The Viking ship collided Wednesday evening with a much smaller sightseeing boat carrying 35 people, most of them South Korean tourists, in Budapest, the capital. Seven people were rescued.

Divers so far have been unable to even approach the wreckage of the 27-meter (88½-foot) tour boat due to high water levels, strong currents and murky waters. A Hungarian military ship has been anchored at the site to help the salvage operation.

The captain is suspected



Hungarian Passenger Boat Association (SZHSz) on Saturday, June 1, 2019 shows the collision of the Viking Sigyn hotelship, rear behind bridge pillar, and the Hableany sightseeing ship, right, at Margaret Bridge in downtown Budapest, Hungary, Wednesday, May 29, 2019. AP

of endangering water traffic causing a fatal mass disaster, which carries a sentence of 2 to 8 years.

“The substantiated suspicion is supported by the report from the scene, photographs, video recordings and more,” the court said, adding that the suspect must be available for authorities investigating the deadly crash.

The captain, identified only as Yuriy C. in line with Hungarian laws, has been in custody since Thursday. His lawyers dispute that their cli-

ent made any mistakes leading to the collision, which took place under a heavy rain and with restricted visibility on the river.

Defense lawyer Gabor Elo said there are no grounds to consider his client a suspect in the case, arguing that the prosecution’s request for the arrest was motivated only by the fact that the captain is a Ukrainian citizen.

Elo said his client “is very sorry that he was involved in such an accident in which so many people lost their lives

or are missing.”

Hungarian police spokesman Kristof Gal said the seven confirmed victims, all South Koreans, have been identified with the help of South Korean authorities by using finger and palm prints and showing photos to relatives.

Some victims’ relatives and friends on Saturday visited the site of the collision under the city’s Margit Bridge, one of the seven main bridges over the Danube in Budapest, close to the neo-gothic Hungarian parliament building. Flowers

tributes and candles have been placed along the bridge.

High spring water levels have so far hampered recovery efforts for the missing but Hungarian authorities hoped that would soon change.

Water management authorities said Saturday the Danube River’s water levels will soon peak at around 5.9 meters (19 feet, 5 inches) and fall to about 4 meters (13 feet) by the middle of next week. It added that no rainfall affecting water levels was expected in the next six days.

Syria says Israeli attacks kill 3 soldiers, wound seven

BEIRUT (AP)—Israel attacked Syrian military positions in the country’s south early Sunday, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others, Syria’s state-run media reported.

State news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying the attacks struck military positions in the southern region of Quneitra, near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. They also caused material damage, it said.

An Israeli military spokesman confirmed on Twitter that Israel targeted several military positions in Syria. He said the targets included two artillery batteries, several observation and intelligence posts and an SA2 air defense unit.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition’s war monitor, said Israeli warplanes struck positions and an arms depot of Iranian troops and Lebanon’s Hezbollah fighters.

The attacks came hours after the Israeli military said two projectiles were fired from Syria toward the Golan Heights.

The Israeli military said Saturday there were no reports of casualties or damage. Israeli media said that sirens warning of incoming rockets were not activated.

Israel has acknowledged carrying out dozens of airstrikes in Syria on Iranian targets and Tehran’s allies.

Last week, Israeli aircraft hit a Syrian military post after the army said an anti-aircraft missile was fired at one of its fighter jets. Syrian media said a soldier was killed in that airstrike.

Israel says it will not allow Iran, which has sent forces to help President Bashar Assad in Syria’s civil war, to establish a permanent military presence in Syria.

For years, Israel has remained largely silent about its attacks against Iran and its Shiite proxies operating in neighboring Syria. But in recent months, military and political leaders have become increasingly outspoken about these activities.

Saudi king slams Iran’s ‘terrorist acts’ at Islamic summit

MECCA, Saudi Arabia

(AP)—Saudi Arabia’s King Salman slammed Iran over recent attacks targeting the kingdom, describing the incidents on Saturday in a speech before Muslim leaders gathered in Mecca as “terrorist acts” that threaten global energy supplies.

It was the monarch’s strongest words yet since tensions spiked in recent weeks between the two regional heavyweights.

Iran had a representative present at the 57-nation summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, or OIC, but its top leadership did not attend.

The Islamic summit drew political figures and heads of state from countries spanning Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

They come with widely varying policies and priorities, but share a common reverence for the Al-Aqsa mosque in east Jerusalem, known as the first “Qibla” because Muslims prayed toward it before the cube-shaped Kaaba in Mecca.

Despite sharp differences between OIC member-states

on a gamut of issues, a final statement by the group stressed support for a future Palestinian state, as well as the rejection of any deal or plan that prolongs Israeli occupation and undermines the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The language stood in contradiction to the Trump administration’s decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in recognition of it as Israel’s capital, as well as a still undisclosed White House plan already rejected by the Palestinian leadership.

Glimpses of the plan suggest it sidelines or ignores the longstanding goal of Palestinian independence. A meeting next month in Bahrain aimed at rallying Arab economic support for the plan is being boycotted by the Palestinian Authority, but Saudi Arabia and the UAE are attending amid growing ties with Israel in the face of shared enemy Iran.

The U.S. recently sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf

calation stems from the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw the U.S. from Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers last year and impose crippling economic sanctions on the country.

Speaking to leaders from OIC countries, King Salman opened the summit saying the world must fight the sources and funding of terrorism around the world.

He then said the alleged sabotage of four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in past weeks represents a “grave danger” to the security of maritime traffic and regional security.

He blamed Iranian-backed terrorist militias of being behind a subsequent drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

“We emphasize that these subversive terrorist acts are aimed not only at the kingdom and the Gulf region, but also on the security of navigation and energy supplies to the world,” King Salman said.

Iran denies being involved in the incidents.

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani had his own mes-

sage for OIC leaders ahead of the summit, urging them to stay focused on the rights of Palestinians.

In a letter published online Friday, Rouhani said Muslim leaders should not let the importance of Palestinian statehood be “marginalized” in the face of the Trump administration’s forthcoming Israeli-Palestinian plan.

Rouhani also noted in the letter he was not invited to the Islamic summit, but expressed Iran’s readiness to work with all Muslim leaders to confront the White House’s so-called “Deal of the Century.”

King Salman told OIC leaders that the rights of Palestinians remains the cornerstone issue of the organization, which was formed 50 years ago in response to an extremist arson attack on the Al-Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem, one of Islam’s most sacred sites.

He said the mosque remains under occupation and threat.

“We reiterate with emphasis the rejection of any measures that infringe upon the legal status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif,” King Salman said,

referring to east Jerusalem and the mosque compound.

Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said any peace deal that does not include an independent and sovereign Palestinian state along 1967 borders with east Jerusalem as its capital will be rejected by the OIC body.

“We shall not accept the rewriting of history, exchanging justice with economic benefits and disregarding dignity and legitimacy,” he told the OIC summit.

The meeting began after midnight and ran into the early hours Saturday due to evening prayers and day-long fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

Saudi Arabia’s effort to bring leaders to Mecca reflects the kingdom’s desire to project a unified Muslim and Arab position on Iran to isolate it internationally.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Tehran regrets “Saudi Arabia’s abuse of its privilege as the host” of the OIC “to sow division between Islamic and regional countries.”

Focus

UK volunteers still honor US airmen, 75 years after D-Day

By DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOPCROFT, England (AP)—David Woodrow, 95, raises the American flag beside a memorial on his farm in eastern England every morning, weather permitting.

He makes sure that memorial is tip-top, too. Dedicated to the U.S. Army Air Force's 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), it is surrounded by irises and geraniums Woodrow planted himself. The grass is trimmed to the millimeter. The granite gleams.

"There's one thing for certain: If Americans hadn't come over here and went to Normandy with us in '44 and the Germans had pushed us back into the sea, we couldn't have gone back again for another two or three years," Woodrow, a D-Day veteran himself, said when asked why he put it there. "By that time, Germany would have had the bomb first and they would have won the war. They would have won the war then—if Normandy had failed."

As the wartime allies prepare to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, people around Britain are also remembering the Americans who paved the way for the invasion, including sailors who helped keep supplies flowing across the North Atlantic and air crews that flew bombing missions over occupied Europe.

From 1942 to 1945, more than 2 million U.S. military personnel were stationed in Britain. People across the country still commemorate that friendly invasion, which bolstered the nation's defenses and gave many their first taste of America. From Portpatrick on the west coast of Scotland, where a plaque marks the site of a plane crash that killed 22 American airmen, to the Norfolk farm where Woodrow raises Old Glory, Britain is dotted with memorials to U.S. servicemen.

Some are formal affairs funded by public money, like the Cambridge American Cemetery, which houses the remains of 3,811 war dead, and the American Air Museum a few miles away, where the silhouettes of 7,031 lost aircraft are etched into a curving wall of glass.

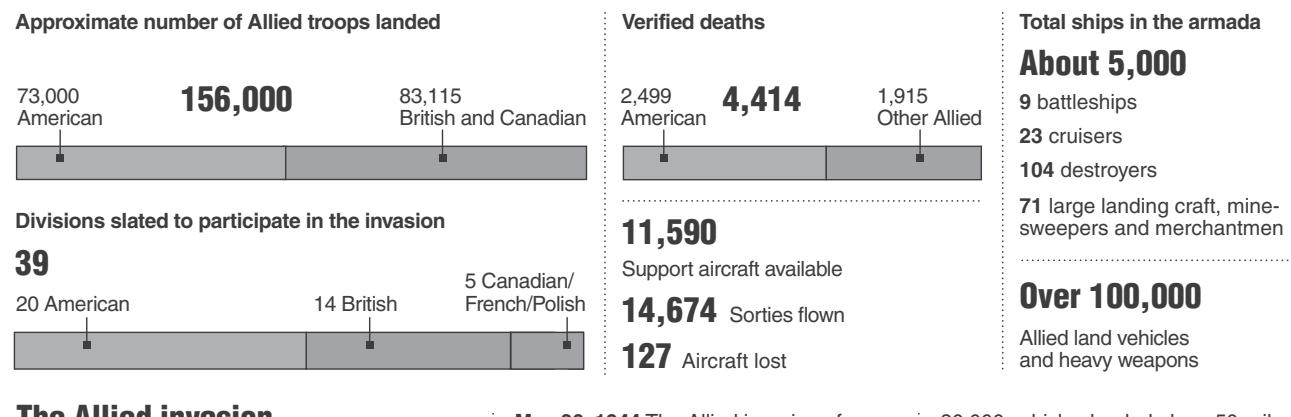
But most are impromptu shrines built and tended by local people to honor those who died and to remember the thousands of others they drank and danced and fought with.

There was no government master plan to make this



D-Day by the numbers

June 6 marked the 68th anniversary of the Allies' massive assault on German forces. Reviewing what happened on D-Day:



The Allied invasion

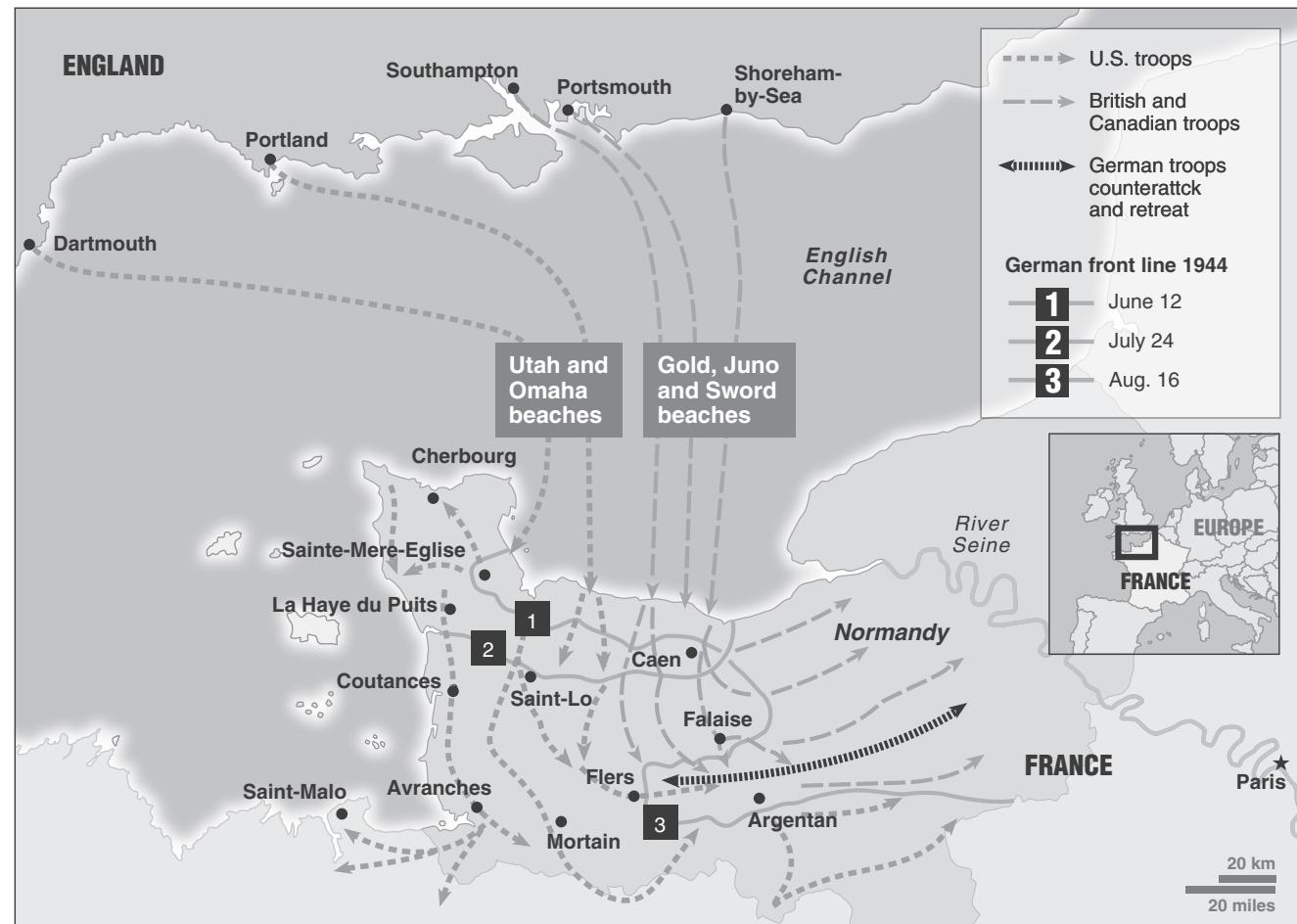
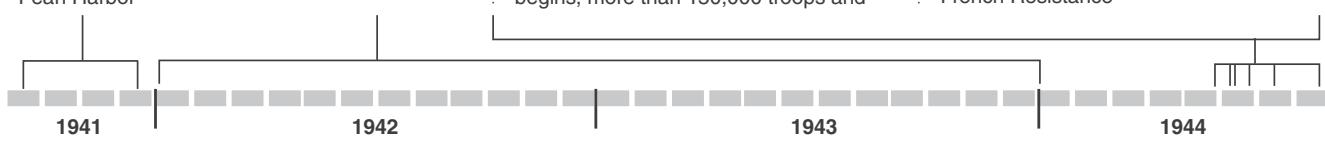
September 1941 Britain begins investigating the feasibility of an amphibious assault in Europe

December 1941 American planners begin formal cooperation with Britain, just after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

1942-43 Various dates are discussed and the strategy is honed; numerous military campaigns continue against Germany

May 30, 1944 The Allied invasion of France commences; as part of Operation Overlord, troops based in England begin mobilizing to cross the English Channel
June 5 Overlord begins; an advance wave of paratroopers descends into enemy territory, securing positions
June 6 A naval bombardment of German positions begins in the morning; Operation Neptune begins; fighting begins, more than 150,000 troops and

30,000 vehicles landed along 50-mile stretch of fortified French coastline
June 30 Allies establish foothold in Normandy
July Allies take control of the port city of Cherbourg, as the Germans retreat
Aug. 19 Allies cross the River Seine; after four years of German occupation, Paris is liberated by the Allies and the French Resistance



Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History, D-Day Museum and Overlord Embroidery, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, PBS, How Stuff Works

Graphic: Staff, TNS

es," he said.

One place that decided to pay tribute is Redlingfield, a village 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of London, which built a black granite memorial to 2nd Lt. Kenneth Rongstad and the crew of a B-17 bomber that crashed into a farmhouse on Nov. 19, 1943.

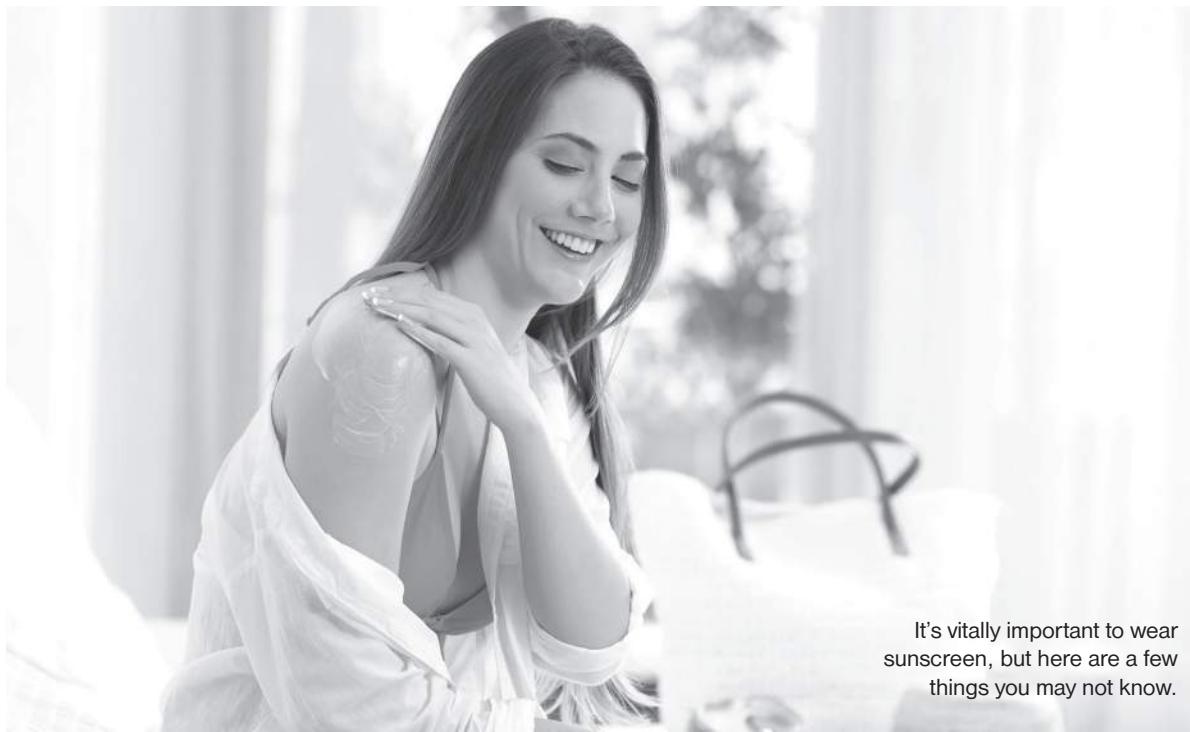
Janet Norman-Philips, 66, and other locals make sure it is scrubbed and bordered with bright pansies.

"People wanted to remember them," said Norman-

Philips, who worked with American veterans to erect the monument. "They were adopted, almost."

There's a reason the Americans made such an impression. Tiny rural communities, some with no running water, electricity or indoor plumbing, woke up to find construction crews pouring concrete on the flat farmland within striking distance of occupied Europe. Little Redlingfield soon had 3,000 servicemen from the Eighth Air Force as neighbors.

Health & Wellness



Stay safe in the sun by knowing how to protect your skin

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: Do spray sunscreens work as well as sunscreen lotions, and do I need to buy different sunscreen for my kids than what I use myself?

ANSWER: Sunscreen that is marketed for children is OK to use, but

children 6 months and older can use the same sunscreen as adults. Babies younger than 6 months should not wear sunscreen but should instead be kept out of direct sunlight and dressed in protective clothing.

Whatever kind you use, make sure

it is a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor, or SPF, of at least 15. "Broad-spectrum" means the sunscreen protects against both types of ultraviolet rays: UVA and UVB, which both cause skin damage. UVA is the long wavelength of light

that penetrates to the deep layers of skin. UVA leads to skin damage over time. UVB is the shorter wavelength of light that penetrates the surface of the skin and causes sunburn.

SPF is the measure of how well a sunscreen protects against UVB rays. An SPF factor of 15 is the minimum needed to prevent skin damage from UVB. A sunscreen with an SPF higher than 50 provides only a small increase in UVB protection when compared to SPF 30 or SPF 50. That means sunscreens with a very high SPF, such as SPF 100, may not be worth the added cost when compared to how much protection they offer. People who have sensitive skin or are allergy prone should use sunscreens that have zinc oxide and titanium dioxide as the active ingredients.

Most people do not put on enough sunscreen. The key to getting the full amount of SPF protection from sunscreen is to apply it generously and frequently. About two tablespoons of sunscreen—or about enough to fit in a shot glass—is only enough for your face, your neck and the back of your hands. Reapply sunscreen at least every two hours, or more often if you've been sweating or swimming. A sunscreen may be water resistant, but no sunscreen is waterproof.

Sunscreen in a spray is just as effective as sunscreen in a lotion. That said, sprays can be hard to put on evenly, and it can be difficult to get enough sunscreen on using a spray. Lotion is more predictable because you can see and feel where it goes. Because of that, lotion tends to be a bet-

ter choice for reliable sun protection. When using sunscreen in a spray, be careful not to inhale the fumes. Hold your breath while applying the spray, and don't spray directly onto your face or neck. Instead, spray the sunscreen onto your hands and then rub the sunscreen onto your face and neck.

Use sunscreen anytime you're outside, even if the sun isn't shining. UV light penetrates through the clouds, and it reflects off water, snow and other surfaces. When reflected, the rays become even stronger, making sunscreen even more important.

If you don't want to worry about reapplying sunscreen, universal protective factor (UPF) clothing can be useful, particularly for active children who don't care to stand still for another round of sunscreen. Many of these clothing items offer an SPF of 50. That's higher than a standard shirt or hat with a tight weave, which usually has an SPF around 15. UPF clothing also is made to get wet, so a child can comfortably wear it in the water.

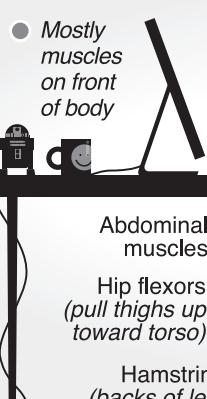
For consistent sun protection that you don't need to reapply, UPF clothing, is a good choice. But don't rely on sunscreen, or even clothing, alone. Avoid being out in direct sunlight in the middle of the day when the sun's rays are strongest. When you're going somewhere that shade may be scarce, bring an umbrella to use as a shield from the sun. Pack a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses for you and your children. Using these tools, your entire family can stay sun safe. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

PERSONAL TRAINER

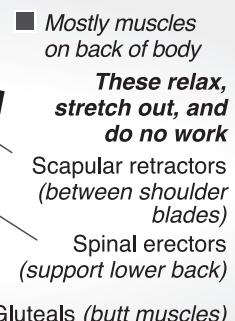
The cost of sitting too much

When people sit in a chair or drive a vehicle for long hours every day, their muscles get quite unbalanced.

These muscles get too tight from overuse ...



... and these get loose from lack of use



How to reverse the forces

Imagine how you naturally stretch when you have been sitting for too long

- 1 Stand up, push your chest forward and spread it
- 2 Arch your back a little
- 3 Stretch your arms backward and pull your shoulders behind you



Do stretches like this – gently but firmly – a few times

They will pull your muscles back toward the balance they need

Source: Dynamic Fitness by Andrew Heffernan

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

STUDY SUGGESTS

Lose weight, improve memory

By NANCY HELLMICH
USA TODAY

Here's another good reason to lose weight: It may improve your memory and concentration, new research suggests.

Scientists know that overweight and obese people are at a greater risk for memory problems and other cognitive disabilities, but the latest study is one of the first to indicate that substantial weight loss improves brain health.

John Gunstad, an associate professor of psychology at Kent State University, and a team of scientists from several research centers analyzed memory tests taken by 150 people who weighed an average of 300 pounds. Many had several health problems, such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and sleep apnea.

Of that group, 109 of them then had bariatric surgery—mostly gastric bypass surgery, which creates a smaller stomach and bypasses part

of the small intestine. The other 41 obese patients did not have surgery.

After 12 weeks, all participants took the same set of memory tests a second time. The surgery patients, who had lost an average 50 pounds, showed improvement in multiple cognitive abilities, including memory and executive functioning, which includes organization skills.

The morbidly obese patients, whose weight stayed the same, showed a mild decline in memory.

The improved memory for the surgery patients likely is not solely due to improved blood pressure because only a small number went from being classified as having hypertension to no longer having it, Gunstad says.

It appears that there is another physiological process that is causing these improvements in memory, he says. "We've known for a while that diet and exercise may also improve cognition, so it's possible there are several factors that are causing these changes."

He says it's a logical conclusion that as the body becomes healthier, the brain would become healthier also.

Michael Devlin, another author on the study and a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University, agrees it's important to emphasize not just losing weight but also adopting a healthy lifestyle—healthy eating and healthy activity.

Duke University Medical Center professor Murali Doraiswamy, an Alzheimer's expert who wasn't involved in this research, says, this is "a pioneering study" because it shows treating obesity might improve memory.

More research is needed to see if mildly overweight people experience similar improvements with weight loss through exercise or diet, he says.

Gunstad and colleagues will continue to follow the participants for two years. The study, published online this week in the journal *Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases*, was funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Life & Style

Elite 8: National Spelling Bee too easy for octet of champs

By BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—There were warning signs throughout a marathon day of spelling that this Scripps National Spelling Bee would not conclude like any other in the event's 94-year history.

Rishik Gandhasri sensed it as he stepped to the microphone for the ninth round of Thursday night's prime-

Memorable words from the spelling bee

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—Here are some memorable words that were used in Thursday's final rounds of the Scripps National Spelling Bee:

VARSOVIENNE: A graceful dance similar to a mazurka. Simone Kaplan of Davie, Florida, displayed an impressive depth of root knowledge when she asked, "Is this most likely from the Latin place name Varsovia, meaning Warsaw?" She was right, and she spelled the word correctly.

MARMENNILL: A fabled marine male creature usually represented as having the head, trunk, and arms of a man and a lower part like the tail of a fish. The word sounds like it has a "t" in it, but it doesn't. Navneeth Murali of Edison, New Jersey, knew that and spelled it correctly.

MACCLESFIELD: A silk with small all-over patterns used especially for neckties. Christopher Serrao of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, spelled it correctly.

KIRILLITSA: The alphabet based principally on the Greek uncials that was originally used for writing Old Church Slavonic. Shruthika Padhy of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, spelled it correctly.

KULA: A Melanesian inter-island system of exchange. Nidhi Vadlamudi of Santa Clara, California, spelled it incorrectly, going with the homonym "kulah."

AUFGABE: A task or exercise, especially when assigned experimentally. Rishik Gandhasri of San Jose, California, spelled it correctly.

RIJSTTAFEL: An Indonesian midday meal consisting chiefly of rice. Blake Bouwman of Grand Rapids, Michigan, spelled it correctly.

VIBRATIUNCLE: A slight vibration. Hephzibah Sujoe of Fort Worth, Texas, spelled it correctly.

time finals, when he was one of eight spellers remaining onstage.

"Just out of curiosity," Rishik asked pronouncer Jacques Bailly, "do you happen to know what time it is?"

It was 11:18 p.m. Forty-five minutes later, Rishik was a champion. So was Erin Howard. So were Saketh Sundar, Shruthika Padhy, Sohum Sukhatankar, Abhijay Kodali, Christopher Serrao and, finally, Rohan Raja. The eight co-champions closed out the bee by spelling 47 consecutive words correctly.

All eight received the full winner's freight of \$50,000 in cash and a new, custom-de-

signed trophy, because Scripps simply could not come up with words difficult enough to challenge them.

There was plenty of concern after the bee ended in ties three years in a row, from 2014-2016, that the very best spellers might be too good for the bee. Scripps came up with a written tiebreaker test of both spelling and vocabulary, a solution no one was thrilled about. After two years in which the test wasn't needed, bee officials decided it was too burdensome on the spellers and got rid of it.

The rules going into this year's bee called for, at most, three co-champions. A con-

tingency plan for even more winners was developed on the fly Thursday afternoon, after bee officials evaluated spellers' performance in the early final rounds. It took 5½ hours to narrow the field from 50 kids to 16.

"We are closely connected to the difficulty level at the program, so we are quite aware of the rising level of competition. This does not actually surprise us at all," said Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director. "We didn't go into the competition tonight not knowing that this was a possibility and not having a plan."

Bailly, the longtime pronouncer and the beloved public face of the bee, broke the

news to a stunned crowd in a convention center ballroom outside Washington after the eight eventual champs had gone through two consecutive perfect rounds.

"Champion spellers, we are now in uncharted territory," Bailly said. "We do have plenty of words remaining on our list. But we will soon run out of words that will possibly challenge you, the most phenomenal collection of super spellers in the history of this competition."

There would be three rounds, Bailly said, and anyone who got through them would be a champion. No one came close to missing a word.

For the winners, fatigue

was the only real concern. Shruthika staggered to the microphone for her last few words and greeted Bailly with a wan, hoarse voice.

"I'm very glad they stopped where they did," said Shruthika, a 13-year-old from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

"I feel like there was no better way to do it," said Saketh, who's also 13 and lives in Clarksville, Maryland. "I don't know if I would've won if they kept going. I was super tired because it was like 12:00, and I was exhausted."

Kimble has long insisted that Scripps would never subject spellers to an endurance contest, and she had no regrets about the way it ended.

"Look at these kids. They worked so hard and they achieved so much," Kimble said. "I think it's the best night ever for the bee."

But there were murmurs of discontent among the ex-spellers and spelling experts in the crowd. The words, they said, were just too easy. Naysa Modi, last year's runner-up who surprisingly missed out on the finals this year because of her written test score, was in tears as the confetti fell. She said the winners were deserving, but the final words weren't tough enough for them, or her.

Among the words that earned spellers a share of the title: "auslaut," "palama," "cernuous" and "odylic."

"This would never happen at my bee," said Rahul Walia, founder of the South Asian Spelling Bee, where Sohum defeated Abhijay for the title last year. He said Scripps was just scratching the surface of words that could confuse or trip up elite competitors.



Co-champions of the 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee, from left, Shruthika Padhy, 13, of Cherry Hill, N.J., Erin Howard, 14, of Huntsville, Ala., Rishik Gandhasri, 13, of San Jose, Calif., Christopher Serrao, 13, of Whitehouse Station, N.J., Saketh Sundar, 13, of Clarksville, Md., Sohum Sukhatankar, 13, of Dallas, Texas, Rohan Raja, 13, of Irving, Texas, and Abhijay Kodali, 12, of Flower Mound, Texas, hold the trophy in Oxon Hill, Md., Friday, May 31, 2019.

AP

Spelling bee veteran offers master class in composure

By BEN NUCKOLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—By any measure, Shruthika Padhy is one of the most accomplished spellers in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee. And for spellers who are nervous or less experienced, she offers a master class every time she steps to the microphone.

She repeats the word several times, giving the judges ample opportunity to correct her if her pronunciation is off. She asks questions, but only the ones that elicit useful information. And she mimes writing the word on her hand, both as she listens to the judges and then, letter

by letter, while she spells.

Even if she knows the word immediately—as she did with "orthodontic" during Wednesday's preliminary round—she never rushes.

"I'm a visual learner, so I imagine the word and then I write it on my hand," Shruthika said. "I ask a series of questions, starting with what I think would be the most helpful."

Shruthika, a 13-year-old from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, has finished in the top 10 each of the past two years at Scripps. She was among 50 spellers who advanced to

Thursday's finals, including nine who were tied for 10th or better last year. The biggest shock among the finalists was a speller who didn't make it: Naysa Modi, last year's runner-up, who competed in her fifth and final bee.

Shruthika has been pretending to write on her hand since she started competing in bees at age 6. The rest of the routine has evolved over time, and she

stresses that she's not a robot. She doesn't always ask the same questions or take the same amount of time, but she never gets harried.

"I always do repeat the



Padhy

word and write on my hand," she said. "It helps me to have a routine to follow, whether I choose to stick to it or not."

Should other spellers follow her example?

"It depends on the speller—if you like to be organized, or if you don't," Shruthika said.

PAY TO PLAY

The wild-card program that allows spellers to pay their way into the bee if they don't win at the regional or state level is almost certainly here to stay, given that last year's champion was a wild card.

But there are concerns among current and former spellers that too many kids are showing up at nationals just because their families

are able to afford the \$1,500 entry fee, plus travel, lodging and expenses.

The preliminary rounds featured wild-card spellers who were clearly overwhelmed by words including "tendon," "vestibule," "allocation" and "gyro." Letting in spellers who are unprepared, former top-10 speller Siyona Mishra said, is creating "a bad reputation for the program."

Scripps' goal for the wild-card program was to give opportunities to spellers who've been to nationals before, who are running out of eligibility—the bee is open to kids through eighth grade—or who come from highly competitive regions. But this year's wild cards also included dozens of first-timers and younger spellers.

11 new sex-assault charges up legal ante for singer R. Kelly

By DON BABWIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—Prosecutors aren't saying much about why they charged R. Kelly with 11 new sex-related felony counts but one thing is clear: Things are much more serious for the Grammy-winning R&B singer.

The reasons start with the fact that the 11 new counts include four counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault—a Class X felony that carries a sentence up to 30 years—more than four times as long as the sentence that each of the 10 counts Kelly was charged with and pleaded not guilty to in February.

"By doing this they have enhanced the penalty if he's

convicted," Joe Lopez, a Chicago defense attorney, said Friday. And perhaps more significantly, he said that even with the original 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse that Kelly was charged with in February there was a possibility that he could have been placed on probation and avoided prison.

But, Lopez said, if Kelly is convicted of any one of the four counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, he must go to prison.

Of more immediate concern to Kelly might be what happens when he returns to court next Thursday to hear the new charges.

"I would not be surprised

at all if prosecutors come to court and ask the judge to increase the bail amount," said Dick Devine, a private attorney who was the Cook County State's Attorney for a dozen

years until 2008. Any substantial increase could send Kelly back to jail. Kelly, whose financial problems have been widely reported, spent a few days behind bars when he was originally charged in February until a suburban woman posted the 10% of \$1 million bond—\$100,000—to secure his release.

But various legal experts say there is not much chance of prosecutors asking for such an increase or a judge granting

that request if they do.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, said he is optimistic that the bail amount won't be increased.

"He's not a flight risk and (while) they may have changed the charges it doesn't change the fact that he's not a flight risk and we expect bail to remain the same," Greenberg said of Kelly.

In the long term, one former federal prosecutor suggested that the new charges are likely part of a legal strategy to increase the chances of a conviction.

"What happens is they charged the same thing in different ways because they obviously want to have the greatest chance at conviction and maybe they looked at the in-

dictment and saw (Kelly's attorneys) might have a defense and they wanted to seal off that defense," said Phil Turner, who is now a Chicago defense attorney.

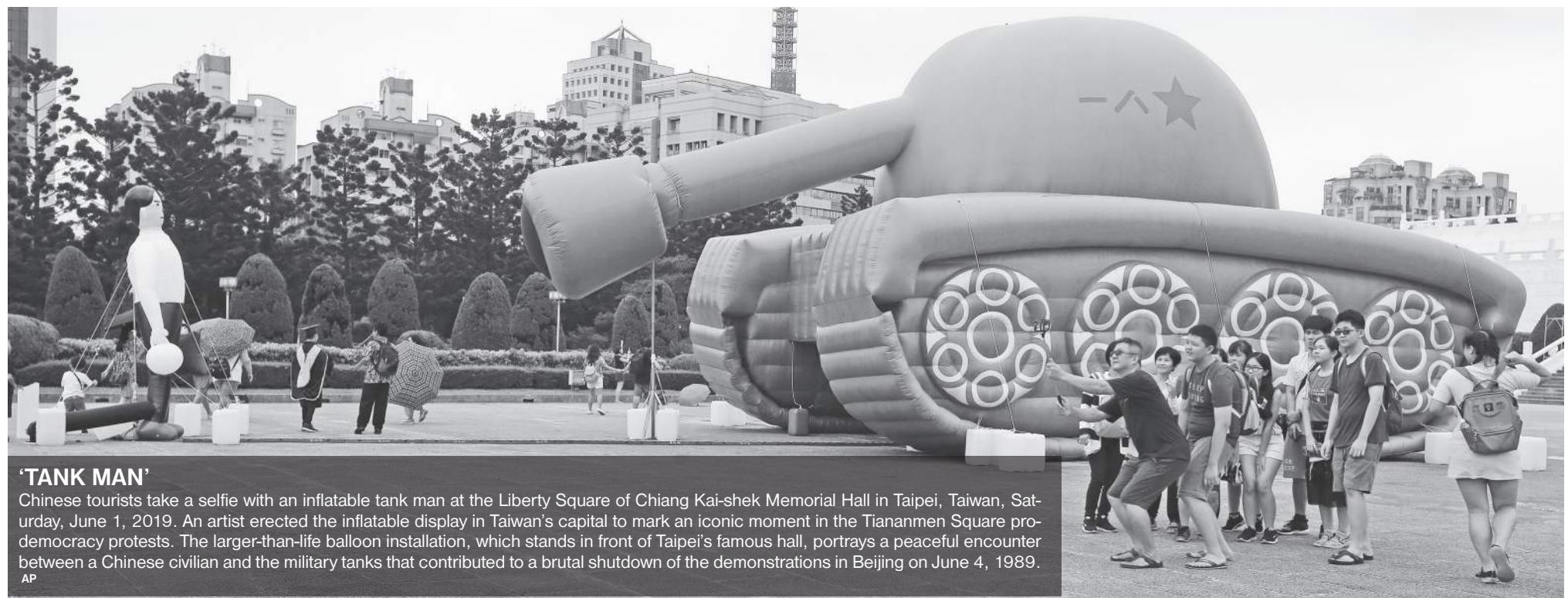
According to the new court filing, the first eight counts are from encounters that allegedly occurred between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2010. Three others pertain to alleged encounters between May 1, 2009, and Jan. 31, 2010.

Among other things, prosecutors allege that Kelly used force or threatened to do so to pressure the accuser into sex or to perform oral sex on him. She was underage at the time, extending the statute of limitations for bringing charges to 20 years from her 18th birthday, they wrote.

Since the new charges were announced, a woman has come forward to say publicly that 11 new sex-related felony counts against R. Kelly stem from allegations she made about the R&B singer.

Jerhonda Pace writes on her Facebook page that she's the alleged victim prosecutors identify as "J.P." in court papers. Anticipating an angry reaction by Kelly's fans, Pace—one of four women Kelly is charged with sexually abusing—wrote that "no matter how 'wrong' you think I am, the law is on my side, a MINOR at the time."

The Associated Press doesn't usually name alleged victims of sexual assault, but Pace has gone public with her allegations.



'TANK MAN'

Chinese tourists take a selfie with an inflatable tank man at the Liberty Square of Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, June 1, 2019. An artist erected the inflatable display in Taiwan's capital to mark an iconic moment in the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests. The larger-than-life balloon installation, which stands in front of Taipei's famous hall, portrays a peaceful encounter between a Chinese civilian and the military tanks that contributed to a brutal shutdown of the demonstrations in Beijing on June 4, 1989.

AP

Spacey lawyer says accuser deleted 'exculpatory' messages

BOSTON (AP)—The man who accused Kevin Spacey of groping him at a bar in 2016 deleted text messages that would support Spacey's claims of innocence, the actor's lawyer said in court documents filed Friday.

Defense attorney Alan Jackson is urging the court to order prosecutors to hand over a "complete and unaltered" forensic copy of the accuser's cellphone. He is also accusing prosecutors of trying to conceal that they had been in possession of the man's cellphone since November 2017.

"Newly produced evidence confirms" that the accuser "deleted exculpatory text messages and provided falsified screenshots of his conversation from the night in question to law enforcement," Jackson wrote.

The accuser "has gone to great lengths to remove text messages he believes did not fit his narrative. The prosecution is aware of this and

Restaurant must provide surveillance footage in Spacey case

NANTUCKET, Mass. (AP)—A judge is ordering a Nantucket restaurant to hand over any surveillance footage taken the night prosecutors say actor Kevin Spacey groped a young man in 2016.

Nantucket District Court Judge Thomas Barrett's ruling Thursday covers any

hid that information from the defense," Jackson wrote.

An attorney for Spacey's accuser declined to comment.

Spacey pleaded not guilty in January to a charge of indecent assault and battery. His lawyers have called the accusation "patently false."

It's the only criminal case that has been brought against the 59-year-old Oscar winner since his career fell apart amid a flurry of sexual misconduct allegations in 2017. The case first came to light

existing surveillance video taken between 5 p.m. July 7, 2016, and 3 a.m. July 8, 2016.

Spacey is accused of groping the son of a former Boston TV anchor in the Club Car's crowded bar. Spacey's lawyers have called the allegations "patently false."

The judge also granted the

that year when former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh said Spacey got her son drunk and sexually assaulted him at Nantucket island's Club Car restaurant and bar, where the teen worked as a busboy.

Spacey's attorney says it appears the accuser deleted certain messages between him and his then-girlfriend from his phone before sending screenshots of conversations to an officer investigating the case back in November 2017.



Spacey

defense's request to examine texts and other records from the man's cellphone. Barrett denied several other defense requests, such as one for phone records of the man's mother.

Another hearing in Spacey's case is scheduled for Monday.

Messages from a screenshot of a group text between the accuser and several of his friends that was sent to the officer have not been turned over to the defense, Jackson says.

Spacey's lawyer is also challenging the impartiality of the district attorney's office after a top prosecutor in the office disclosed that his sister is friends with Unruh. Jackson is asking for all communications made about the case by First Assistant District Attorney Michael Trudeau, who said his sister shared a ski house with Unruh for years.

Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge offers new world at Disneyland

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is on the same land as Disneyland, but stepping into the new attraction transports visitors to an entirely different world.

The theme park offered media a glimpse into Galaxy's Edge on Wednesday. The exclusive tour included a Star Wars-themed food tasting, a stroll through the Black Spire Outpost marketplace and four-minute ride on the Millennium Falcon.

A firsthand look took place a couple days before Galaxy's Edge opens at the California theme park on Friday. That's when guests with a pre-reservation can experience the largest single-themed land created in a Disney park.

Disney officials said it took more than five years to develop and finish the attraction.

"I'm very excited about being this close to inviting guests and our biggest fans to join us at the edge of the galaxy," said

Scott Trowbridge, portfolio creative executive and studio leader at Walt Disney Imagineering. He spoke in front of the First Order TIE echelon spaceship.

"We had the fans in mind the whole time," he said. "We've been able to kind of open it up to them and invite them to kind of join us on this remote outpost planet."

Disney christened the land Wednesday night with a firework display and an assembly of some of biggest names in the "Star Wars" universe: creator George Lucas and actors Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Billy Dee Williams.

Galaxy's Edge is an adventure through the grungy planet Batuu, a remote world in the newest "Star Wars" trilogy, and the fight between the Resistance and the evil First Order. The sprawling 14-acre land has three different areas including the Resistance, First Order and the Village.

 **SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**
Bill Cosby drops defamation claims against 7 accusers

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Bill Cosby has dropped his countersuit against seven women who accused him of sexually assaulting them. Court papers filed Friday show the four-year defamation case in Massachusetts is now over. Cosby's insurer had settled with the women last month for an undisclosed sum. The 81-year-old comedian objected to the settlement and vowed to pursue his counterclaims. Spokesman Andrew Wyatt said Friday that Cosby dropped the case "to focus on other matters." Cosby is serving a three- to 10-year sentence in Pennsylvania for drugging and molesting a different woman in 2004. The women involved in the defamation case include Tamara Green, Barbara Bowman and Therese Serignese. Lawyer Joe Cammarata says his clients believe they are "truth tellers." He had planned to take Cosby's deposition if he pursued his countersuit.

Paris wants a 'Princess Diana Square' at site of her death

PARIS (AP)—Paris City Hall wants to name a small plaza after Princess Diana, at the site of the 1997 car crash that killed the cherished British royal. The site is adjacent to the Alma Tunnel where the accident occurred. The plaza is currently named after opera singer Maria Callas. A city hall official said Thursday that the city council will vote next month on a measure to rename it after Diana. The city noted that Callas already has a nearby avenue named after her, and that the city wants to honor Diana for her humanitarian work. The 36-year-old princess, her boyfriend and driver died after their Mercedes crashed into a concrete pillar in the tunnel.

Cardi B makes court appearance in strip club melee

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B made a court appearance Friday in a case stemming from a fight at a New York strip club. The Grammy-winning rapper—in a pink pantsuit and long, sparkling pink fingernails—appeared somber and did not speak during the hearing. Cardi B faces misdemeanor reckless endangerment and assault charges in connection with the me-

lee at a Queens strip club last fall. Police say the rapper, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, and her entourage were at the club when she argued with a bartender. They say a fight broke out in which chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown, slightly injuring the woman and another employee. Her lawyer has said that she didn't harm anybody. Prosecutors said Friday they would present the case to a grand jury. The district attorney's office asked to have her back in court on June 3, but Cardi B's lawyer said she was not available then, so the next hearing date was set for Aug. 9. The conditions of her parole were continued, including an order of protection for the complainants. Fans followed Cardi B out of the courtroom on Friday, trying to get photos. She hugged a woman who appeared to be an acquaintance but did not speak to anyone else.

Prosecutor shifts Smollett recusal reasons, releases files

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's top prosecutor again shifted her explanation for why she recused herself from an investigation into Jussie Smollett's claim that he'd been the target of a hate crime, saying she stepped aside because of false rumors she was related to the "Empire" actor. Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx offered the new public explanation in a statement issued along with the release of 2,000 pages of documents in the case, which also refer to the rumors arising as suspicions grew that Smollett, who is black and gay, staged the attack against himself. Her statement and the documents, which included internal office communications, illustrate how Foxx and her office at times agonized over whether she should recuse herself at all and over how to explain the decision in March to drop all charges that accused Smollett of lying about the assault and making a false police report. Smollett claimed he was the victim of a racist, anti-gay attack in downtown Chicago in January. Foxx said in her Friday statement: "False rumors circulated that I was related or somehow connected to the Smollett family, so I removed myself from all aspects of the investigation and prosecution ... so as to avoid even the perception of a conflict."

Taylor Swift asks Tennessee senator to support Equality Act

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift says she's kicking off Pride Month by asking Tennessee's Republican U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander to protect LGBTQ rights and support the Equality Act.

The pop star, who lives in Tennessee, posted a letter on social media early Saturday that she supported the House's recent passage of the Equality Act, which would

extend civil rights protections to LGBT people by prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The protections would extend to employment, housing, loan applications, education, public accommodations and other areas.

The Democratic-controlled House in mid-May passed the legislation. Every Democrat voted in favor, along with eight Republi-



Swift

cans. However, in the GOP-controlled Senate, the bill's chances appear slim.

Swift added that she "personally rejects" the notion that President Donald Trump's administration supports equal treatment of all people.

Kenny Rogers admitted to hospital, treated for dehydration

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Entertainer Kenny Rogers has been admitted to a Georgia hospital for dehydration, according to his official Twitter account.

A statement posted Friday said he would remain there for physical therapy to "get his strength back" before being discharged.



Rogers

The statement said the 80-year-old singer and actor appreciated the well wishes from fans and wanted to as-

sure everyone that "he plans on sticking around through the years to come."

The husky-voiced balladeer retired from touring in 2017 after a 60-year career spanning jazz, folk, country and pop, with hits like "The Gambler," "Lucille" and "Lady."

Trump to award Medal of Freedom to 'Trumponomics' co-author

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is set to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to economist Arthur Laffer, who co-wrote a book about him.

The White House made the announcement Friday.

Laffer is known as the father of supply side economics, which gained popularity under President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

His theory, the "Laffer Curve," establishes the concept that lower tax rates spur economic growth, jobs and investment. A number of economists disagree and do not believe that cutting taxes spurs growth.

Reduced taxes under Reagan led to higher budget deficits. In 2012, Laffer advised Kansas to slash taxes for the state's top

earners to jump-start its economy. Instead, the state ran up significant deficits.

Laffer, 78, has been supportive of the president and co-wrote a book titled "Trumponomics: Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy."

The medal is the nation's highest civilian honor. It will be awarded June 19.

Elton John objects to 'Rocketman' scene deletions in Russia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elton John and the filmmakers of his biopic "Rocketman" on Friday sharply criticized a Russian distributor's decision to censor scenes from the new movie.

A joint statement by John and the filmmakers said they were unaware that scenes featuring gay sex and drug use would be removed from the film at a screening in Moscow on Thursday. Reports say five minutes of scenes were cut from the film.

"That the local distributor has edited out certain scenes, denying the audience the opportunity to see the film as it was intended is a sad reflection of the divided world we still live in and how it can still be so cruelly unaccepting of the love between two people," the statement said. The biopic premieres in the U.S. on Friday and in Russia on June 6.

The film delves into John's sexuality and relationship with then manager John Reid. It stars Taron Egerton who does all his own singing as John in the musical fantasy that captures the essence of the singer's life.

The statement said John and the filmmakers hoped "Rocketman" could "open dialogue" regarding homosexuality.

"We believe in building bridges and open dialogue, and will continue to push for the breaking down of barriers until all people are heard equally across the world," the statement said.

Mom's meddling adds stress to the arrival of first baby

DEAR ABBY: I am in my 20s, married and seven months pregnant. My problem is my overbearing and manipulative mother. She guilt-trips me, uses social media to shame me and has tried to harm herself and blame me for it, saying I caused it because I'm a horrible daughter.

Now that I am expecting my first child, she's trying to control everything. All the boundaries I set are being pushed and crossed. This is causing a lot of stress for me. What can I do to get free of my crazy, overbearing mother?!

NEEDS FREEDOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEEDS FREEDOM: Recognize that as an adult, YOU are now in control. Stress isn't good for you or your baby at a time like this. As a mother, your first responsibility will be to your little one.

If your mother has tried to harm herself in the past—regardless of her reasons for it—surely others are aware of it. Because she is toxic and unstable, you have every right to distance yourself from her drama. Draw the line. Accept that you can't please everyone, and that includes your overbearing mother.

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law has been living with my husband and me for three years. We have been helping him out for about 11 of our 15 years of marriage. I don't want him here anymore. My husband tells me that I need to be patient. I think I have been patient long enough.

My cousin said to give his brother an ultimatum, but he has a temper, and he doesn't have normal arguments. He doesn't hit, but he automatically yells. Because of that, I have been avoiding issues with him that have been bugging me. How should I go about telling my husband it's his brother or me?

WANTS HIM GONE

DEAR WANTS HIM GONE: Unless you are prepared to follow through on your ultimatum, I don't think you should put it in those terms. A gentler way to phrase it might be to tell your husband that he has been a wonderful, supportive brother, but he has been doing his adult brother no favors by fostering his dependence upon both of you. Point out that what's been going on for the last three years has been extremely unfair to you, that you no longer wish to live this way, and that it's time to set a certain date when either his brother is out of your home—or you will be.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do you think people feel about receiving greeting cards that have a charity organization's name and address on the back of the card? I receive beautiful cards from charity organizations to be sent out by me and have often wondered if people think you are too cheap to buy your own cards. These cards include birthday, get well, Christmas, etc. I hate to throw them away, but I would like to know how people feel when receiving these cards.

SENDER OF GREETINGS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR SENDER: Speaking for myself, when I receive a card from someone, I am far more pleased that the person thought of me than how much was spent on the card. It's the thought that counts, remember?

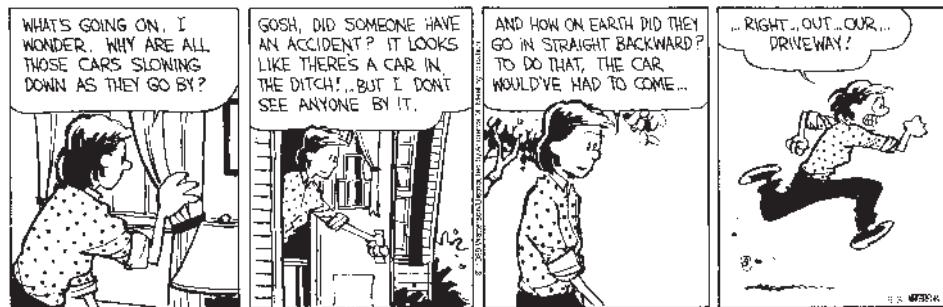
■ ■ ■

READER ALERT! If you know a student who would like to enter the \$5,000 Dear Abby College Columnist Scholarship contest, see the information at DearAbby.com/scholarship and learn more. The deadline is fast approaching.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	"Chan-	58	Property	16	Fleur-de-	—
1 Chewable	stick	delier"	claims	—	—	—	—
4 Parisian	river	singer	59	Chopper	20	Ham's	dad
9 Chaney	of horror	41	Christmas	1	Family	21	Three
12 Links org.	films	43	Aged,	docs	22	Slangy	feet
13 Leek's kin	in a	45	As a	2 "Yecch!"	23	Tot's	suffix
14 Rage	way	47	whole	West	4	reading	material
15 Food's	freshness	48	Zodiac	Sentimen-	27	Baseball	execs
17 Hardly	period	49	feline	tal sort	5	Blow	up
18 Call —	any	50	Novel	6	Sundial	29	Fencing
19 Papa	storage	54	Storage	numerical	7	Fax	sword
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21 Boot camp	partner	56	Buddy	checking	8	Man-	Handle
24 Swelled	hopper	57	Kate's	9	Vigor	34	Football,
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25 Curator's	heads	59	partner	phy	11	37	Worldwide
26 Mayo	heads	60	NASA	Raw	Salaman-	39	Comes
28 "Bullitt"	heads	61	heads	materials	der	42	up
31 Leeway	heads	62	heads	11	Salamander	44	Dangerous
33 Hirohito's	heads	63	heads	12	bacteria	45	bacteria
35 Aspiration	heads	64	heads	13	Sports	46	fig.
36 Rapper's	heads	65	heads	14	Exile isle	47	fig.
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		164	heads	113	46	133	46
		165	heads	114	46	134	46
		166	heads	115	46	135	

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Check out the video section of the Saipan Tribune website.

**ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law**
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Tel: 234-7859 | Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER) CIVIL ACTION NO.
OF THE ESTATE OF) 16-0252**

**ANGELINA BORJA) NOTICE OF HEARING
PEREDO aka) Date: July 18, 2019
ANGELINA P. RIOS,) Time: 9:00 am
Deceased.) Associate Judge
Joseph N. Camacho**

TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T.

**HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND
INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that Hilda V. Rios has
filed a Response to in the above-titled
matter. The hearing on the Evidentiary
Hearing is scheduled to be heard on the
date and time set forth above at the
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands. All
interested persons or entities should
appear at this hearing.**

Dated this day 13th of May, 2019.

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Genaro B. Inting
P.O. Box 502454
234-3588 / 989-9345

pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**In Re The Matter Of)
The Petition To Appoint) FCD GU
General Guardianship For:) CIVIL ACTION
R.I.D.I and J.C.D.I) NO. 19-0247
Minor Child)
By:) NOTICE OF
Genaro B. Inting) HEARING
Petitioners)**

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a
hearing on June 12, 2019 at 9:00
a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before
Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 31st day of May, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: The honeymoon is over

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Warriors confident despite losing finals opener



TORONTO (AP)— The Toronto Raptors are rugged and relentless, capable of punishing teams in transition any time they make a mistake.

The Golden State Warriors felt like they were seeing a version of themselves in Game 1 of the NBA Finals, and now they have to stop it.

No problem, they figure.

“It’s first to four, not first to one,” Klay Thompson said. “So, still a lot of basketball to be played.”

The Warriors’ 1-0 deficit may be unusual, but they certainly don’t seem uncomfortable. Golden State had won 12 straight Game 1s before falling 118-109 on Thursday, and the two-time defending champions hadn’t been behind in the NBA Finals since Cleveland had a 2-1 lead in 2015.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr has pointed to his team’s poor transition defense in the opener after Toronto used its quickness to score 24 fast-break points and turn the Warriors’ 17 turnovers into 17 points.

“They were getting the ball off the rim and just pushing it. Instead of crashing as hard as we did, we’ll have to make the adjustment in Game 2 and try to send more guys back,” Thompson said Saturday. “But 10 days off as well, we might have had a little cobwebs. It was just a mixture of things. But I know this: I know we’ll be better tomorrow.”

Kerr said the Raptors reminded him of the Warriors, with Pascal Siakam pushing the ball in transition the way Draymond Green does. Siakam was the far more effective player in the opener,



Golden State Warriors’ Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket between Toronto Raptors’ Marc Gasol, left, and Danny Green (14) during Game 1 of the NBA Finals, Thursday, May 30, 2019, in Toronto.

AP

with 32 points while Green struggled to a 2-for-9 night.

But the Warriors aren’t worried, relying on the confidence from facing just about every possible situation while making it to five straight NBA Finals.

“They got rings and they can be confident,” Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. “We can’t really necessarily worry about them. We have to continue to worry about us. They’re going to be them and they’re going to do their thing, but for us we

have to concentrate on us and focus on what we have to do.”

Durant out for Game 2

Kevin Durant is going to miss Game 2 of the NBA Finals, and Andre Iguodala’s health is of at least mild concern to the two-time defending champion Warriors as well.

Iguodala, the 2015 NBA Finals MVP, had an MRI on Friday on his left leg after he was hurt late in Game 1 of the title-series opener against the Toronto Raptors. Durant, the

finals MVP in 2017 and 2018 who has been dealing with a strained calf, was ruled out by Warriors coach Steve Kerr in an expected move.

“Kevin’s not going to play Sunday,” Kerr said. “I guess we’ve been holding out hope, but might as well say it now. It’s near-impossible for him to play on Sunday.”

Toronto took Game 1 and will host Game 2 on Sunday night. Iguodala expects to play, and the Warriors said his MRI came back clean.

“He seems to be doing well. I talked to him and he said he felt pretty good,” Kerr said.

Iguodala scored with just under two minutes left in Game 1, his left leg flaring out a bit as he leaped to take that shot from the middle of the lane. He immediately grabbed the back of the leg in the hamstring area after landing, clapped his hands while grimacing and hobbled down to the other end.

The Warriors subbed him out not long afterward, and he didn’t return.

Iguodala started and played 29 minutes in Game 1, finishing with six points, six rebounds and seven assists. He was slowed in the Western Conference finals by a problem with his left calf, and he missed the clinching Game 4 of that series.

Kerr said the team isn’t going to rush Durant’s return. The fear is that if he comes back before the calf is sound even the slightest tweak would mean his season is over.

Durant hasn’t played since he was hurt in Game 5 of the West semifinals against Houston.

“The thinking is when he’s ready to play, he’ll play,” Kerr said.

Better Kawhi

Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points in the opener but shot just 5 for 14 after averaging 31.2 points in the first three rounds. Coach Nick Nurse doesn’t think the All-Star forward was bothered by a leg injury that appeared to hamper him somewhat in the Eastern Conference finals.

“I don’t think the leg trouble is much of an issue,” Nurse said, “and I’m expecting him to play a lot better tomorrow.”

If the Warriors want to rattle Leonard, it will require actions rather than words. The 2014 NBA Finals MVP always appears to be calm, and he was asked if he responds when players try to trash talk him.

“It really doesn’t happen too much,” Leonard said. “I really can’t say it happens.”

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Clippers were fined \$50,000 by the NBA on Friday for comments coach Doc Rivers made about Leonard during a TV appearance.

“Did you ever see a team like this? Fighting with no fuel in the tank,” the German said.

Victory against Tottenham came six years after Dortmund was beaten by Bayern Munich in the Champions League final.

Klopp is now European champion for the first time.

“I am so happy for my family,” he said. “They suffer every year when we go to a final, the last game of the season.”

The penultimate game saw Klopp miss out on ending Liverpool’s 29-year English title drought by a point to Manchester City in the Premier League title race.

“We are doing good stuff,” Klopp said on the field amid the celebrations in Madrid. “People are always saying, ‘Why didn’t you win anything?’”

They can’t anymore at Liverpool.

Liverpool tops Tottenham in Champions League final

MADRID (AP)—No tears of pain this time, just redemption for Mohamed Salah.

Only 108 seconds were needed to banish the Champions League final heartbreak of a year ago.

Once Salah dispatched his early penalty against Tottenham, Liverpool was on the path to a sixth European title with a 2-0 victory on Saturday.

And a year after defeat in the final to Real Madrid, Juergen Klopp has his first title after four years as Liverpool manager.

A shoulder injury forced Salah out of the Kiev showpiece last year.

This time it was Tottenham midfielder Moussa Sissoko’s arm that gifted Liverpool the early penalty opening—blocking Sadio Mane’s shot after 21 seconds—and Salah



converted from the spot after a video review check.

“I have sacrificed a lot for my career,” Salah said.

“To come from a village, to go to Cairo, and to be an Egyptian at this level is unbelievable for me.”

On a hot and humid night in Madrid, Tottenham came to life only in the final 20 minutes of its first European Cup final.

But Liverpool completed the job in the 87th minute thanks to one of its semifinal saviors.

Divock Origi had to accept a place back on the bench despite producing two goals while deputizing for the injured Salah last month. But the substitute had the final big say in the Spanish capital, ri-

fling a left-footed shot inside the far post.

“Every single player fought hard today,” Origi said. “So

it’s just special.”

After two losing finals since triumphing in 2005, Liverpool finally rose to third in the all-time list of European champions behind 13-time winner Real Madrid and AC Milan on seven titles.

Few fans—even from Liverpool—will want to watch just how it was achieved.

Both sides had gone three weeks without playing. It showed.

The sharpness was deficient, as was the ability to string passes together.

“When we look back on tonight we aren’t going to think it was a sluggish game,” Liv-

The striker was largely

anonymous as Tottenham, which finished 26 points behind Premier League runner-up Liverpool in fourth place, couldn’t even get a shot on target until the 73rd minute.

Alisson Becker scooped up a spinning shot from Dele Alli and made a double-save from Son Heung-min and Moura with 10 minutes to go.

It was goalkeeping that made the difference, showing \$85 million was well spent by American owner John Henry after Loris Karius was banished for making costly mistakes in last year’s final.

“You have a goalkeeper who makes difficult things look easy,” Klopp said. “Thank you very much.”

No wonder Klopp was relieved after six losing finals, stretching back to his spell at Borussia Dortmund.

20-year-old stuns Serena at French Open



PARIS (AP)— Maybe it was the daunting deficit Serena Williams faced in the French Open's third round. Maybe it was the way her 20-year-old American opponent, Sofia Kenin, was questioning line calls.

Either way, as Williams attempted to start a comeback Saturday with a three-ace game, she followed those big serves with some serious staredowns.

Whether it was meant to get herself going or intimidate Kenin, it didn't work. Outplayed from start to finish, Williams lost 6-2, 7-5 to the 35th-ranked Kenin, ending her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam title with her earliest loss at a major tournament in five years.

"In that first set in particular, she hit pretty much inches from the line, and I haven't played anyone like that in a long time," the 37-year-old Williams said. "I just saw a player that was playing unbelievable."

It was the second significant surprise in a matter of hours: Earlier in the day, No. 1 seed Naomi Osaka was eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by 42nd-ranked Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic. That ended Osaka's 16-match Grand Slam winning streak, which included titles at the U.S. Open final in September—when she beat Williams



Sofia Kenin of the U.S. clenches her fist after scoring a point against Serena Williams of the U.S. in the last game of the second set during their third round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 1, 2019. AP

in the final—and at the Australian Open in January.

Osaka was trying to become the first woman to win

three consecutive major trophies since Williams grabbed

four in a row in 2014-15, a run that was preceded by a second-round loss at Roland Garros and a third-round loss at Wimbledon.

Since those early-for-her defeats, Williams had won six of the 14 majors she entered to surpass Steffi Graf's professional-era record of 22 Grand Slam singles championships. With 23, Williams stands one away from Margaret Court's mark for the most in tennis history; Court played in both the professional and amateur eras.

"Serena is such a tough player. I'm still trying to process what just happened," Kenin said, about an hour after the match ended with her covering her face with both hands. "She's a true champion and an inspiration."

Kenin was born in Moscow and is fluent in Russian. Her family moved to New York when she was a baby, and she now is based in Florida.

"I'm proud to be an American," said Kenin, who wore a blue U.S. Fed Cup cap to her news conference. "I think it's great we moved to America for a better life for me."

She is appearing in the ninth major of her career and now is headed to her initial trip to the round of 16, where she'll meet No. 8 seed Ash Barty.

Other women's fourth-round matchups established Saturday: defending champion Simona Halep vs. 18-year-old

Iga Swiatek of Poland; No. 14 Madison Keys of the U.S. vs. Siniakova; 17-year-old Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. vs. qualifier Aliona Bolsova of Spain.

Williams sat out four Slams in 2017-18 while she was off the tour to have a baby. Her first major back was last year's French Open, where she withdrew before a fourth-round match because of a chest muscle injury. She went on to reach the finals of Wimbledon and the U.S. Open before wasting match points during a quarterfinal loss at the Australian Open this January.

Williams came to Paris having played only four matches since then—she withdrew from two tournaments because of an injured left knee and another because of illness.

And she had said she considered not entering the French Open at all.

"I'm glad I came, at the end of the day," she said, "but it's been a really grueling season for me."

Asked whether a third-round appearance was satisfactory, given her issues, Williams not surprisingly said it was not.

"I wouldn't expect to have gotten only to the third round," she replied.

Said her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou: "All I know is, she was not ready. And it was obvious, I think."

Sanchez homers, Yankees beat Red Sox



N E W
Y O R K
(A P) —

Gary Sánchez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the fifth inning, Aroldis Chapman escaped trouble in the ninth and the New York Yankees bullpen held tight again to beat the Boston Red Sox 5-3 Saturday night.

After starter Domingo Germán was chased early, six Yankee relievers combined for 5 1/3 scoreless innings to lock down another victory over the rival Red Sox—New York is 4-0 to start the season series, a first since 2012.

Chapman walked Mookie Betts and allowed a single to Andrew Benintendi leading off the ninth, but J.D. Martinez hit a double-play grounder and Rafael Devers rolled the last out to first.

Twins 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Marwin Gonzalez and Byron Buxton homered and drove in two runs each as Minnesota beat Tampa Bay.

The Twins, who lead the

majors with 108 homers, failed to go deep while splitting the first two games of the series at Tropicana Field.

Brewers 12, Pirates 10, 13 innings

In Pittsburgh, Orlando Arcia hit his second homer of the game, a two-run drive in the 13th inning that sent Milwaukee over Pittsburgh.

Both teams blew late leads before Arcia connected with two outs off Alex McRae (0-1) for his first multi-homer game in the majors. Earlier, Arcia hit a two-run homer in the second.

Rangers 6, Royals 2

In Arlington, Joey Gallo hit a tie-breaking home run for the second straight game before leaving in the fifth inning due to injury as Texas beat Kansas City.

Gallo was removed because of tightness in his left oblique while batting. He initially felt the injury while in the outfield and then again on a check swing during a plate appearance.

Indians 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Carlos Santana and Leony Martínez homered and Cleveland took advantage of a blunder on the bases to end Chicago's five-game streak.

The Indians climbed back to .500 and prevented the White Sox from reaching the break-even mark for the first time since April 5.

Giants 8, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Brandon Belt drove in four runs, Buster Posey homered and San Francisco used a rare offensive outburst to breeze past the Orioles.

San Francisco built a 7-1 lead in the fifth inning and cruised to only its second win in 10 games.

Mike Yastrzemski scored twice and had an RBI for the Giants.

Nationals 5, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Gerardo Parra hit a three-run homer that ended Tanner Roark's streak of keeping the ball in the park and Matt Adams added a solo

shot, leading Washington over Cincinnati.

Washington has won nine of its last 10 at Great American Ball Park.

Braves 10, Tigers 5

In Atlanta, Mike Soroka won his sixth straight decision, Freddie Freeman and Austin Riley each hit a two-run homer, and the Braves beat Detroit to snap a three-game skid.

Soroka (6-1) scuffled a bit, allowing season highs of three runs and seven hits and striking out five in 6 2/3 innings.

Angels 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Kole Calhoun and Mike Trout homered late, Andrew Heaney struck out 10 and Los Angeles overcame two home runs by Edwin Encarnación and beat the Mariners.

Calhoun's second home run of the series broke a 3-3 tie and helped overcome Encarnación's 34th multi-home run game.

Rockies 4, Blue Jays 2

In Denver, Jon Gray struck out seven in a solid seven-

inning outing, Nolan Arenado singled to extend his hitting streak to 12 games and Daniel Murphy drove in two runs as Colorado beat Toronto.

David Dahl had three hits as the Rockies won their seventh straight and improve to 8-1 on their homestand.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 3

In Los Angeles, Will Smith hit a towering, tiebreaking home run in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Los Angeles a comeback victory over Philadelphia in a matchup of division leaders and the two best teams in the National League.

With one out, Smith smashed his first career homer into the left field pavilion off Héctor Neris (1-2).

Marlins 9, Padres 3

In San Diego, Harold Ramirez's two-run double highlighted Miami's five-run fourth inning, Bryan Holaday hit a two-run homer and Jose Urena won his third straight start in beating the Padres.

The Marlins sent 11 batters to the plate in the fourth, with Garrett Cooper hitting two singles, driving in one run and scoring one run.

Astros 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Justin Verlander struck out eight over eight innings and moved into a share of the major league lead with his ninth win, pitching Houston past Oakland.

Verlander (9-2) allowed one run on four hits and walked two, allowing only Stephen Piscotty's second-inning homer.

Diamondbacks 6, Mets 5, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Tim Locastro drove in the tie-breaking run with one out in the 11th inning, giving Arizona a win over New York.

Kevin Cron, called up from Triple-A Reno before the game, doubled off Mets reliever Tyler Bashlor (0-3) to start the bottom of the 11th inning.

Cardinals 7, Cubs 4

In St. Louis, Dexter Fowler and Harrison Bader hit back-to-back homers in the eighth inning, and St. Louis outlasted Chicago in a game that ended early Sunday after a rain delay of over three hours.

Paul Goldschmidt also hit a home run for the Cardinals (29-28).

Kaymer builds 2-shot lead over Scott at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)— Martin Kaymer is 18 holes away from ending five years without a victory.

He is mildly surprised. He is not the least bit stressed.

And he has plenty of company among contenders at the Memorial for whom winning has become more of a memory than a habit.

Kaymer was bogey-free Saturday at Muirfield Village for a 6-under 66 that gave him a two-shot lead over Adam Scott, setting up a final pairing of two major champions and former No. 1 players in the world in the midst of long droughts.

Four shots behind and very much in the mix are Jordan Spieth—a three-time major champion and former No. 1—and Hideki Matsuyama, both win-

less since 2017. Joining them was Patrick Cantlay with a skill set that suggests he should have more than his one victory that came in the fall of 2017.

“We can all play good golf, and it’s quite nice for tomorrow because no one is really holding back,” Kaymer said. “I think you only hold back if you don’t know the situation because then you don’t know how to react and you play safe, defensive. No one is playing like that in that group.”

Kaymer was at 15-under 201 in his first appearance at the Memorial in 10 years.

The German was on the verge of falling out of the top 200 in the world ranking until a tie for eighth in the British Masters last month. His road back began with an emphasis on the short game, and it paid off in a big way on a course that slowly getting faster.

He holed par putts of 8 feet

and 20 feet on the front nine to keep within the leaders, took the lead with a wedge into 3 feet for birdie on the par-5 11th, saved par from a scary bunker shot behind the 12th green with water in front of him, and then holed a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 13 that breaks sharply over the last few feet. Spieth, playing with Kaymer, raised his putter as he watched it break, appreciating the difficulty of it.

Scott had only one blemish on the ninth hole and did enough right to pile up birdies on the par 5s and a few other holes that he’s in a spot to win again. A year ago, Scott left the Memorial and had to go through U.S. Open qualifying. While he hasn’t won, he chased Brooks Koepka all the way to the finish line at Bellin in the PGA Championship last summer and feels

comfortable where he is.

“I’m just going to play as good as I can tomorrow,” Scott said. “I like where it’s all at. I feel like the last few times I’ve been in with a chance, going back to the PGA Championship last year, I felt comfortable. So I’m not worried. I feel like this is the spot I’m meant to be. I feel like my game is at a level that if I put it all together properly and control myself out there, I can win.”

Matsuyama won the Memorial in 2014, the start of his road to stardom. He finished strong on both nines to give himself a chance with a 64.

Spieth has put together his best three-week stretch since the end of the 2017 season, and he was most pleased that he is keeping his tee shots in play and overcame some spotty iron play with a short game that appears to have returned full force. He finished with a 15-foot par putt on the 18th.

“Just trying to hit plenty of greens in regulation and let the flat stick work itself on Sunday,” Spieth said.

Cantlay, a former No. 1 amateur in the world whose career was slowly by a back injury so severe he thought he might not return, had a chance to win the Memorial last year when he took a two-shot lead into the back nine and then failed to make another birdie, missing a playoff by one shot.

He had a 68 to give himself another chance.

Tiger Woods also started strong by holing a bunker shot, nearly holing another and making the turn in 32. But on the 10th, his fairway bunker shot didn’t get out and came back in his footprint, leading to a double bogey. That slowed momentum, and Woods finished with a bogey for a 70 that left him 11 shots out of the lead.

Kaymer looked like a world beater in the summer of 2014 when he won The Players Championship in a Sunday duel against Spieth, and then won by eight shots at Pinehurst No. 2 for his second major. Where it all went is as mysterious as the game of golf, though Kaymer spoke about his focus being on the wrong things.

He feels as though he’s back, or close enough to contend in the U.S. Open in two weeks, and Sunday could be a barometer. Either way, he was satisfied with his game and his position and what he’s done.

“Tomorrow is playing brave, playing the way I can play, enjoying the capability of my game,” he said. “Everything is there. I don’t need to hold back with anything. I don’t need to be afraid of something that could happen. I just look forward to whatever happens tomorrow.”

MHS-1

From Page 28

served for a game point and there was a long exchange between the opposing teams before Jared King caught MHS-1 blockers off guard. King leapt from the right corner in what looked like a booming spike, but he tricked two Dolphins blockers, as he instead tipped the ball over on an unguarded spot to give Tinian-1 the win and force the deciding game.

The Dolphins held a twice-to-beat edge in the finals after prevailing in their first three matches in the winner’s bracket. MHS-1 roped MHS-3, Rota, and Tinian-1 to notch the first finals berth.

Tinian-1 got the second and last finals ticket after eliminating Saipan Southern High School, 25-20. The Stallions, however, failed to complete their comeback bid in the weekend tournament, as the Dolphins got their acts together in the deciding Game 2.

Hinson scored the winning point for MHS off an ace.

Marianas High School-1’s Logan Mister spikes the ball during Game 2 of their title showdown with the Tinian Junior Senior High School in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Frank “The Crank” Camacho, third left, joins his Team Oyama for a group photo after beating Germany’s Nick “Sergeant” Hein in their lightweight bout in UFC Fight Night 153 yesterday in Stockholm, Sweden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CRANK

From Page 28

The 30-year-old Camacho also had a bump on his lower left eye in the first round after getting caught by Hein’s cross and that nearly threw him off their game plan.

“I saw red and I was like I should crank it up and go after him. However, my corner kept reminding me to calm down because we still have time and we need to implement our game plan,” Camacho said during a post interview from MMAfighting.com.

The Saipan-raised fighter then patiently worked on throw-

ing multiple shots on Hein, connecting on his right kick, combinations, and several body and headshots. With Camacho bringing the fight to his German opponent, the latter tried to pin the former down to the canvas. However, after hitting the sides, Camacho wisely got out of trouble and resumed with his team’s game plan of wearing down Hein first with different shots and waiting for the right opening to attack further.

By the end of the first round, the fight commentators at the UFC website had Camacho connecting 57 strikes against only 35 from Hein.

In the second round, Camacho continued to be the ag-

gressor, but he was still careful not to overdo it to the point of exhausting himself. Hein, on the other hand, started to gas out, as he kept on taking in Camacho’s strikes with both sides of his rib turning red. The German also failed to counter and became defensive, allowing Camacho to chase him and went for the kill.

With the victory, Camacho improved his overall record to 22-7 and 2-4 in UFC. The Team Oyama standout, who lost to Geoff Neal and Drew Dober last year, also won his first bout of the season after dropping to the lightweight class (155 lbs) from the welterweight division (170 lbs).

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 27

on, after winning over Kanoa anew. Then in their second meeting, Southern United prevailed, forcing TanHoldings to a shootout for the division title. TanHoldings ended up foiling Southern United’s upset bid in the decider to get the first champi-

onship at stake in the annual competition organized by Saipan Soccer Club.

TanHoldings then notched its second championship after the club’s co-ed U12A crew shut down Kanoa in the finals, 2-0.

Incidentally, TanHoldings-1 started its bid in the division with a win over Kanoa and the former advanced to the title game after beating Shirley’s

Football Club. Kanoa, after dropping its opener, eliminated Shirley’s and TanHoldings-2, to challenge TanHoldings-1 again.

Matansa, Shirley’s, and MPU triumph

Meanwhile, the three other division titles went to Shirley’s, MPU United, and Matansa.

Shirley’s took the co-ed U8 age group crown after blanking

Matansa in the finals, 3-0. Shirley’s also defeated MP United and Matansa in the preliminary games before dominating Matansa in the title game. Matansa marched into the finals after ousting TanHoldings.

In the co-ed U10 division, MP United lost to Paire in the battle for the first finals berth, but got back at its foe in the title match to clinch the age group crown. After falling to

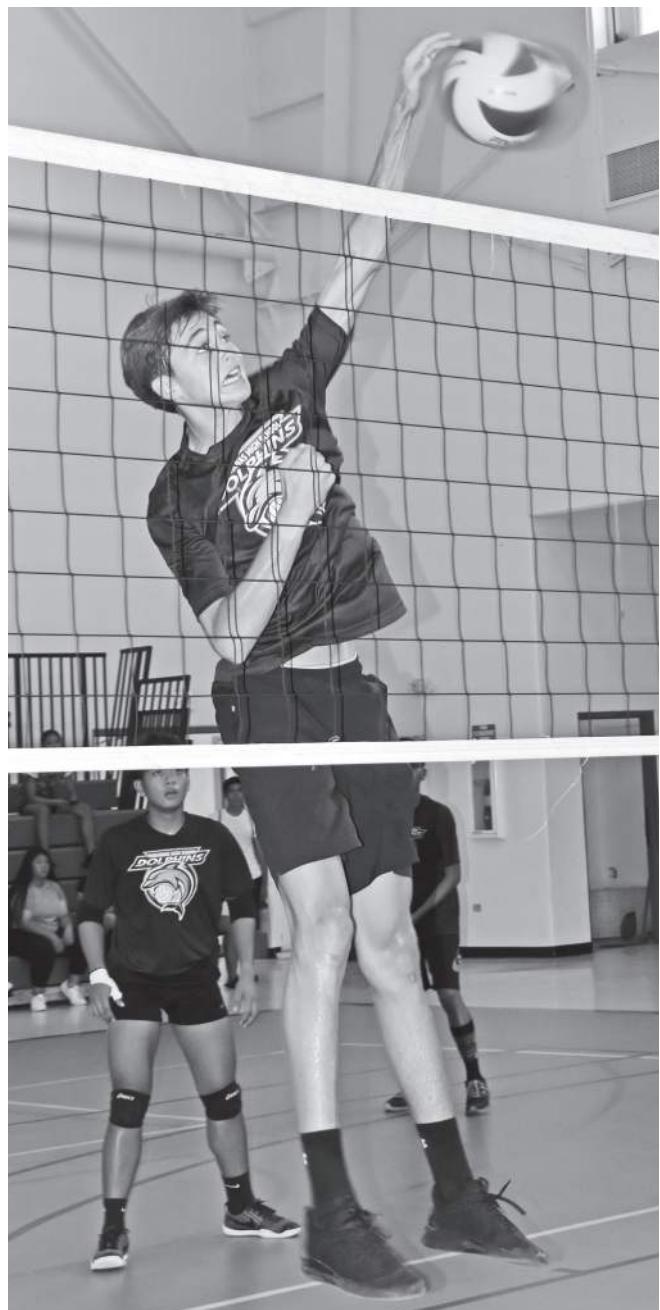
Paire, MP United faced and edged Shirley’s to earn the second finals berth.

In the co-ed U12B division, Matansa shut down Southern United in the finals, 2-0.

The champion teams were awarded with medals at the conclusion of the event that drew more than 200 participants.

“We always have a great turnout every time we hold

the President’s Cup and that makes my birthday more special. Every year, I look forward to celebrating my birthday with a tournament like this, with kids coming together to play the sport we all love. Seeing the smiles on their faces and how they enjoy every game is their best gift for my birthday,” said Tan, who celebrated his birthday last Friday.





Winners, participants, and volunteers join Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation president Jerry Tan in group photo during the awards ceremony for the the 4th President's Cup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TanHoldings FC takes two titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 TanHoldings Football Club bagged two of the five division titles contested in the 4th President's Cup held last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings first clinched the girls U17 age group crown after outclassing Southern United Football Club in a shootout, 3-2. MP United, Kanoa Football Club, and the Lady Bulldogs were the three other teams entered in the double-elimination tournament held to celebrate the birthday of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan.

Victories over the Lady Bulldogs and Southern United moved TanHoldings to the finals and the latter was also given a twice-to-beat advantage. Southern United, which topped Kanoa in its first game before bowing to TanHoldings, got another crack at the eventual champion.

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26



A MP United Football Club player, left, kicks the ball during their co-ed U10 game against Paire Football Club in the 4th President's Cup held last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Two Matansa players duel a Shirley's FC player for possession during their U10 game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



TanHoldings FC's Nathan Perez dribbles away from two Shirley's FC defenders during their U10 game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A MP United FC player kicks the ball during a shootout against Paire FC.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A TanHoldings-1 goalie bends down to pick up the ball during their co-ed U12A title game against Kanoa.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Matansa and Southern United FC players battle for possession during their U12B division title match.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



20-year-old
stuns Serena at
French Open

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Warriors confident
despite losing
finals opener

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Marianas High School-1's Bailey Spaeth, left, tips the ball over during their title-deciding game against Tinian Junior Senior High School in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MHS-1 rules boys high school v-ball tourney

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REPORTER

Marianas High School-1 survived Tinian Junior Senior High School-1 in a rubber, 25-11, to clinch the championship in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

After the Stallions stunned the Dolphins in Game 1 (25-23) of the finals, MHS-1 made sure no more upset will take place, as the eventual champion dominated the deciding Game 2 right from the get go. Jerico Castro, Logan Mister, and Bailey Spaeth this time were on point with their spikes to hand MHS-1 the easy win in Game 2. Nilo Calimag,

Alan Hinson, Archival Velasco, and Andrei Manalo also played for the Dolphins in the double-elimination playoffs.

Earlier in Game 1, MHS-1 seemed headed for the victory when it built a 7-1 lead. Tinian-1 scored the first point, but played catch up the rest of the way, as the much taller MHS-1 players used their height advantage to earn points in the net.

Two straight points from Spaeth gave MHS-1 a 15-7 advantage and Tinian-1 was forced to sue for time to regroup.

The visiting team went on to work its way back into the match and stole the win from the Dolphins, who were too aggressive with their game



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'Crank' TKOs German foe

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A calm and collected Frank "The Crank" Camacho returned to the octagon cage after back-to-back losses and hammered Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein with a flurry of punches to earn an impressive TKO victory in their lightweight bout in UFC Fight Night 153 yesterday in Stockholm, Sweden.

UFC Referee Leon Roberts called the stoppage at the 4:56 mark of the five-minute second round, as he had seen enough with a wobbling Hein trying to cover his face to avoid more punishment from Camacho's fists. The Marianas warrior set up the stoppage after he hit Hein on the head using his knee. The German retreated to the corner and that gave Camacho the opportunity to attack more and unload a series of killer punches, forcing Roberts to pull the plug on Hein with just four minutes left in Round 2.

The German, who absorbed his third straight loss, sustained bumps on the lower part of both his eyes with blood flowing from his nose and from a small cut on the tip of his nose, after engaging Camacho in a standup fight.

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Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, connects a kick on the body of Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein during the first round of their lightweight bout in UFC Fight Night 153 yesterday in Stockholm, Sweden.

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